

## **Re-opening St. Thomas of Villanova Church for Public Worship**

Greetings to you and welcome back, dear Parishioners of St. Thomas of Villanova Parish.

Many things have changed due to this COVID-19 pandemic. We appreciate your usual generosity in assisting our parish to keep our beautiful church operating, and we ask that you please be patient with us as we (including the staff and volunteers) adapt to the guidelines set by the NL Health Authorities and our Archdiocese.

As we begin to open the church once again for public worship and private prayer on the 18th of July 2020, we ask that you please take note of the following:

- Dispensation from Attendance of Sunday Mass: Archbishop Peter Hundt has dispensed all from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass and advises "those who are elderly, frail, or at higher risk of complications from COVID-19, are encouraged to not attend public worship at this time." He is concerned about our well-being. Yet, the doors of St. Thomas church are open to all. Everyone is most welcome. Everyone is encouraged to make their own informed decision. We hope for the return of all parishioners in due course

- Maximum of 50 people at Public celebrations: The directives of the NL Health Authorities permit (for now) the Archdiocese to offer the public celebration of Mass and other services for 50 people or less (including the priest, ushers, readers, etc.). Proper social distancing, hand sanitizing, and increased cleaning in the church are required.

- Our Celebration of Mass will take a gradual form. Our Mass times for now are:  
Saturday at 4:00 pm doors open 3:30 pm Sunday at 9:30 am doors open 9:00 am

- All Masses are still being live streamed at the Basilica through the website ([thebasilica.net](http://thebasilica.net)) and posted on YouTube.

- Registering for Masses:

Dear Brothers and Sisters, please pre-register for all Masses. Each person can sign up for ONE MASS ONLY PER WEEK. We will re-evaluate this as we proceed. To register call the office 834-9481 or email ([Villanovaparish@nl.rogers.com](mailto:Villanovaparish@nl.rogers.com)) between Tuesday - Thursday 9:00am - 12:00 noon. You will be only admitted to the church if you have a confirmation (email or phone call) that your name is on the list for a specific Mass. (Please preregister and receive confirmation of your attendance).

- **GUIDELINES FOR MASSES**

- Entry to the church will be through the main door only; other doors will be used only in case of emergency.

- Exit will be through the exit door close to the Choir side in the church. You are not to exit through the entry main door. We highly recommend (unless for medical reasons) that all people from 2 years and above entering the church wear a non-medical mask. It is an extra layer of protection for each other. Please bring your own mask. If possible have your personal sanitizer.

- All people must adhere to social distancing of 2 meters. The Church is marked out for this purpose. Please, listen and follow the ushers/volunteers who will guide you to a seat.

- Upon entry, ushers/volunteers will meet you to review a COVID-19 health “self-assessment”, and after sanitizing, will show you to your seat at the front section of the church, (please if you need Holy water, you can check with an usher to get Holy Water you need for home.)
  - The church is marked off for social distancing so you may not get your usual pew. Arrow signs are present to assist you with directions. Doors will open 30 minutes before Mass and will close 30 minutes after Mass for cleaning the touched surfaces.
  - The washrooms will be available only for emergency purposes (one person at a time and must sanitize. discretion is highly recommended in using the washrooms).
  - There will be no hymn books or materials permitted in the pews or on tables. Congregational singing is discouraged (for now) but we will have singing by our cantors.
  - There will be no Offertory Procession or passing around of collection baskets. There will be a SECURE place for you to place your collection at the door when you enter or as you are leaving. Please consider donating by drop off at the office or by Direct Deposit.
  - There will be no children’s liturgy for now. Please use the Living Faith resource to pray and explain the Word of God to the children at home.
  - Holy Communion will be received (for now) on the hand ONLY. There will be no reception from the Chalice. For Holy Communion, the individual attestation at the moment of distribution of Holy Communion (“The Body of Christ. Amen.”) is eliminated. Instead one general pronouncement (“The Body of Christ.”) is to be made by the priest and one general response (“Amen.”) is to be made by all the congregants together before the distribution of Holy Communion begins. Then all those wishing to receive Holy Communion come forward, sanitize their hands, (you can bring your own hand sanitizer), receive Holy Communion in silence, move to the side, remove your mask and consume the Host, and follow the directional arrows to your seat.
- Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals will be subject to the same guidelines as Masses.

**COVID-19 SELF ASSESSMENT FORM**

-To speed up the process at the entry point, before you come to St. Thomas' Church, you can print out and complete the self-assessment form which also contains your contact information, and present that at the door to the usher (after receiving confirmation of registration from the parish office)

**COVID-19 SELF ASSESSMENT FORM**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

Entry to St. Thomas of Villanova Church is NOT POSSIBLE if you answer YES to any of the following questions:

1. Have you travelled internationally or outside the province (Atlantic Bubble) in the last 14 days?  
\_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

2. Have you been in close contact with anyone who has traveled internationally or outside the “Atlantic Bubble” in the last 14 days?  
\_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

3. Have you been diagnosed with COVID-19? \_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

4. Have you been tested for COVID-19 and are awaiting results? \_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

5. Have you had close contact or cared for someone who is confirmed or a probable COVID-19 case within the last 14 days? \_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

6. Have you experienced any cold or flu-like symptoms in the last 14 days (to include fever, cough, soar-throat, respiratory illness, difficulty breathing)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

If you need more information, please email ([villanovaparish@nl.rogers.com](mailto:villanovaparish@nl.rogers.com)) or phone the parish office: 834-9481