

Saint Gregory Dorchester Full Opening Protocols as of May 29, 2021

(following the announcement of new Commonwealth of Massachusetts Protocols)

- As of May 29, 2021 the Church is fully open with no pews being taped off and vaccinated people no longer required to wear masks or socially distance.
- The State does advise that non-vaccinated people continue to wear masks.
- Every parishioner and every family will be expected to make a sound, reasonable decision about when they are ready to take off their masks and be near other people. No priest, parish greeter or other volunteer will be expected to ask people whether or not they have been vaccinated. If you are more comfortable wearing a mask, feel free to continue to wear one.
- *The dispensation from the obligation for coming to Sunday Mass has not yet been lifted, and even when it is, if a parishioner is feeling ill, they should remain at home.*
- When and if the parish becomes aware that a COVID positive person has attended Mass, there will be a notice on the parish's website. Parishioners should be advised to keep an eye on the website, as that will be where such an announcement will be made.
- Going forward Missalettes and hymnals may be used and kept in the pews but given the availability of Missalettes the Office of Worship will soon make some recommendations for other resources available.
- Congregational singing is allowed and will be introduced slowly. The Archdiocese is also encouraging a slow play as to returning to the shaking of hands at the Sign of Peace. It may well be that not everyone is ready for that, even if they are unmasked and sitting near one another.
- Priests, Deacons, and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist will continue to disinfect their hands before distributing Holy Communion.
- Going forward we will continue to request that you receive the Eucharist in the hand.
- Communion calls to homes may resume. If you or someone you know is not able to come to Church for any reason, feel free to call Fr. Jack or Julie Hayes at the Parish Office.

Final Point

- Lastly, thank you to all of you for your patience and understanding over the past 15 months. It has not been easy! I also need to thank all who assisted us in making the return to a more limited opening possible this past December especially the greeters, liturgical ministers, Julie Hayes in the Parish Office, and Sean Bourne who disinfected the Church after every service.