



# SAINT RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL PARISH



UT IN OMNIBUS GLORIFICETUR DEUS – THAT IN ALL THINGS GOD MAY BE GLORIFIED

Saint Raphael Rectory, 103 Walker St., Manchester, NH 03102-4566, U.S.A.  
Tel. 603.623.2604 E-mail: [jday@anselm.edu](mailto:jday@anselm.edu) or [secretary@saint-raphael-parish.com](mailto:secretary@saint-raphael-parish.com)  
ESTABLISHED IN 1888 - NEW ENGLAND'S FIRST BENEDICTINE FOUNDATION

  
*Welcome Home*  
— WHERE YOU BELONG —

4 June 2020

## Guidelines for returning to public worship

*Welcome home to Saint Raphael. It's been almost three months – and you, our parishioners, friends and visitors, have been missed! The following guidelines, prepared on the basis of regulations and recommendations by the federal Centers for Disease Control, the State of New Hampshire and the Diocese of Manchester, aim to promote your safety as participate in our Eucharistic celebrations. We want each of you to be safe! Questions or concerns? Please check with the pastor, office or ushers.*

1. If you exhibit symptoms associated with Covid-19, remain at home. The 9:30 a.m. mass will be live-streamed. If you feel unwell, even if without symptoms, likewise remain at home – and seek medical attention if conditions worsen. A full description of who should and should not attend Mass at this time is posted on the doors of the church and will accompany these guidelines in the general e-mail distribution.
2. We will resume our regular weekend Mass schedule, 6-7 June 2020: 4 p.m. Saturday, 7.30 a.m., 9.30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Sunday. Confessions, because of the close confines in the confessional, will remain on the rectory porch.
3. You need to wear a suitable sanitary mask during Mass. If you forget your mask, we expect to have some extra ones available; ask an usher. Do try to remember to bring your mask with you as the number of extra masks on hand at the parish is limited. The masks prevent you from spreading contaminated saliva droplets if you, unknowingly, are infected.

4. Please enter the church by way of the central doors only; all other entrances will be locked for entry. Because attendance restrictions exist, we need to control access to the church, which is not possible with multiple entrances. Please exit by way of the main entrance doors too. The chapel will be closed for weekend masses and only open for weekday masses.
5. When you arrive at SRP, please sanitize your hands. For those without their own hand sanitizer, there are two sanitizing stations on the two pillars on either side of the center aisle once you have entered the nave of the church. A small amount of sanitizing fluid will be sufficient for you to prepare your hands. It is recommended that just prior to reception of Holy Communion, you again sanitize your hands, especially if you have touched surfaces that could be contaminated or if you have coughed or sneezed into your hands. You also may wash your hands in the bathrooms on the main floor and in the parish hall downstairs.
6. Please take a seat in pews that are open. These pews are separated from each other by a non-designated pew, which will be blocked off.
7. Members of a family and/or household are, of course, welcome to sit with each other, observing due safety measures. If you arrive with someone you are assisting, but someone not of your household, you likewise may sit together, observing due precaution. Otherwise, we ask that members of the congregation maintain social distancing at 6 feet.
8. Because of possible contamination from worshippers, the green hymnals, missalettes and prayer cards will be removed until a later date. Your bulletin insert will provide the readings. Please do not use your cell phones during Mass. If you wish to have the readings in advance of Mass, you may access them via the web site of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops: <http://www.usccb.org/about/> Go to Bible, then Today's Readings. You may print them out – and the size of print is adjustable!
9. Until further notice, singing will be confined to the cantor and celebrant. Congregational singing will be suspended. This will rejoice some and dishearten others. We are called to bear each other's burdens!
10. In place of the offertory collection by the ushers, there will be two stationary collection boxes inside the main entrance. Please place your envelopes, cash or checks in either stationary offertory box. This will reduce unnecessary movement and contamination possibilities.
11. During the Sign of Peace, the celebrant will extend the "Peace of the Lord" to the congregation, without any offering of peace among worshippers. The Agnus Dei / Lamb of God will begin immediately after the celebrant's offering to the whole congregation.
12. For reception of Communion, ushers will invite worshippers to come forward in a single line, maintaining social distance. Split left or right once you are the next one up to go to the celebrant or the Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist (EM). Please note, the celebrant and the EM will wear masks as they distribute Communion. Communicants shall receive on the hand. This generally reduces the risk of viral contamination. Wear your mask as you take the Sacred Host in

your hand, then step to the side, remove your mask, consume the Host. Please make any prayer of thanksgiving in your seat.

13. Return to your seats by way of the side aisles, please.
14. At the conclusion of Mass, please remove any papers or personal materials from the seat. Materials you wish to discard can be left in the trash baskets in the vestibule.
15. Following Mass, we ask that you maintain silence in church to accommodate those who wish to pray. When the bell sounds, all should leave so that the cleaning team may begin its work. Please do not linger as you greet family and friends under the portico, in the garden or in the parking lot. Maintain social distance at all times; if someone backs up or gestures, cooperate with him or her and increase the distance. As New England and the rest of the U.S. begin to open up, we should remember that the coronavirus continues to infect, sicken and even kill people in every state and community, often the most vulnerable among us and, sometimes, even the strongest.
16. If you are unable or unwilling to return to Mass at this time but wish to receive Holy Communion, you may come to Saint Raphael after the Saturday vigil Mass, arriving at 5 p.m., or after the mid-morning Sunday Mass, arriving at 10.30 a.m. The Eucharist will be available under the entrance portico. Those who need to receive while in their cars may drive to the entry, heading north on Third Street toward Ferry Street and stopping at the entry. Please wait until pedestrians have left the immediate area.



***Thank you for reading these guidelines and applying them during and after our liturgical celebrations! Restrictions and recommendations may be intrusive, awkward and uncomfortable. We abide by them, thus sacrificing convenience, sociability and time for the good of others, as well as our own safety! As we work our way through this challenging time, we inevitably will adjust and adapt these guidelines and regulations. Should you have suggestion or concern, please contact the office at 603.623.2604 or send an e-mail to Kerri Stanley at [admin@st.raphael.org](mailto:admin@st.raphael.org)***

Your attention and cooperation are appreciated! It will be wonderful to see many of your back at Saint Raphael. Welcome home! Please continue to be prayerful, prudent and patient. Through the loving intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Refuge of the Sick, and Saints Joseph and Benedict, as well as the Archangel Raphael, each with tender regard for the sick and those threatened by illness, may God's blessing and protection abide with us all!

In the Lord's love,

Rev. Jerome Joseph Day, O.S.B., Ph.D.

- Pastor, Saint Raphael the Archangel Parish
- Assistant Professor, Department of English, Saint Anselm College

[www.saint-raphael-parish.com](http://www.saint-raphael-parish.com)  