



June 2020

Dear Parishioners:

It is with great joy that I announce that we are now celebrating public Masses! We are now able to gather again as God's family and share the Eucharist together. Just because we are having Mass, does not mean you have to come to Mass. If, for whatever reason, you wish to stay away a little bit longer, please know that the obligation to attend Sunday Mass has been suspended by Bishop Scharfenberger for the time being.

If you choose to attend Mass, there are many changes that you will encounter. We made a **video** that will show you these changes – you can access it online at our website. The first change is that your **seat must be reserved ahead of time**. You can reserve your seat by going to our website and look for **Sign Up For Mass** or you can call the Parish Office. Secondly, all who come to church **must wear a face mask**. I ask that you bring hand sanitizer with you so you can sanitize your hands before and after Mass.

When you arrive to the church, the greeters and ushers will welcome you and direct you to an assigned seat. This will be done because we are limited to the number of people who can attend any one Mass. The hymnals have been removed because congregational singing has been suspended for the time being. At the time for **Communion**, the ushers will direct each pew to come forward. At the end of Mass, the ushers will again direct each row out of church in order to maintain social distancing.

For the duration of following these protocols, we need to have parishioners volunteer as greeters and ushers. Please consider helping in this important ministry and call the Parish Office.

Conditions may warrant adjustments to our plans so I invite you to regularly check the church's website and social media platforms for any changes to the public schedules. As we look forward to sharing the Eucharist together, I ask for your **cooperation and patience**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Pat".

Rev. F. Patrick Melfi  
Regional Pastor



**St. John's Parish**

931 North Union St.  
Olean, NY 14760

**716-372-5313**

E-mail: [kbarber@sjteolean.org](mailto:kbarber@sjteolean.org)

Website: [sjteolean.org](http://sjteolean.org)

FB: St. John's Church of Olean

**PARISH OFFICE**

**HOURS**

Please Wear Mask

**MASS TIMES  
NOW OPEN  
TO PUBLIC**

Please Wear Mask

**Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels**

202 South Union Street  
Olean, NY 14760

**716-372-4841**

E-mail: [bonnie@smaolean.org](mailto:bonnie@smaolean.org)

Website: [smaolean.org](http://smaolean.org)

FB: Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels Olean NY

YouTube: Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels Olean NY

My Parish App: Dial 88202, Text App

Monday thru Thursday  
9 am to 3:30 pm

Saturday—4:30 pm

Sunday—9:30 am

*Check parish bulletins for*

**St. Philomena Parish**

26 Plymouth Avenue  
Franklinville, NY 14737

**716-676-3629**

E-mail: [jvant@spvm14737.org](mailto:jvant@spvm14737.org)

NEW Website: [spvm14737.org](http://spvm14737.org)

FB: Saint Philomena R.C. Church

Tuesday 9 am to 3 pm  
Saturday 1—4 pm  
or by appointment

Saturday—5 pm

Sunday—10:30 am

*View online bulletins on parish website.*

**RSVP IMPORTANT: NYS & DIOCESE OF BUFFALO ALLOW FOR LESS THAN FULL CAPACITY.**

**RESERVATIONS  
FOR MASS**

**SACRAMENT OF  
RECONCILIATION  
& ADORATION**

Call Parish Office  
By Thursday 3:30 pm

or

Register Online  
[sjteolean.org](http://sjteolean.org)  
by Friday 11 pm

Wednesdays  
6:30-8:00 pm

Call Parish Office  
By Friday 2 pm

or

Register Online  
[smaolean.org](http://smaolean.org)  
by Friday 11 pm

Wednesdays  
6:30-8:00 pm

Call Parish Office  
By Friday 2 pm  
or  
Register Online  
[spvm14737.org](http://spvm14737.org)  
by Friday 11 pm

Wednesdays  
6:30-8:00 pm

## PROTOCOLS FOR PUBLIC MASSES & SACRAMENTAL CELEBRATIONS

### Dispensation from Sunday Obligation Remains

The dispensation given by the Bishop from the obligation for Catholics to attend Sunday Mass will remain in effect until it is safe to revoke it. So it is that persons who are more vulnerable to the virus are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the dispensation and refrain from attending public Mass. Our **LIVE Stream Mass** will continue to be available each week **Saturday at 4 pm**. You can visit SMAOLEAN.ORG and look for the LIVE Stream links. Also, consider attendance at any weekday Mass as an option.

### For Those Who Attend

We who attend Mass must learn and adjust to the new cautionary procedures that are necessary and now in place during the pandemic. You can imagine how important this will be as it pertains to welcoming parishioners, wearing masks and social distancing. Parishioners themselves will receive guidance at Mass for seating, procession and reception of Holy Communion, and for dismissal.

### Reserving Your Seat

If you plan to attend one of our published Masses, you will first need to reserve your seat. If you have access to the Internet, you can do this through our parish website. On the opening page, look for the link: "Sign up for Mass." Here you will be directed to a page that lets you reserve the day and time of Mass, plus allow you to sign up your family members.

If you do not have access to the Internet, please call the parish office and our staff will reserve your seat for you. If you sign up, we ask you to show up. The enclosed chart gives you all the information for all three linked parishes.

### Please Volunteer

Greeters and Ushers are needed for each Mass. Training will be provided. Please consider volunteering in this capacity. Call the Parish Office or fill out a volunteer form online on the website.

### Protocol Video on Our Parish Website

This video was made for you to help make these temporary protocols easy to follow.

Please watch and share.

Let's all keep our neighbor's safety in mind.



**We can't wait to see you in church! To ensure your safety, signing up for a Mass helps adhere to capacity limitations. To prepare for our coming together, we invite you to watch this short video that highlights the guidelines and what it will be like when we return to celebrate Mass together.**

**It's Not a Fear Response. It's a Faith Response.**

## PROTOCOLS FOR PUBLIC MASSES & SACRAMENTAL CELEBRATIONS

### Please Remember

- ⇒ Stay home if you are not feeling well.
- ⇒ General dispensation from Sunday Mass obligation remains in place.
- ⇒ Wear Masks (2 years old & over) covering mouth and nose. Maintain before you enter, during Mass, and until you reach the car.
- ⇒ Stay 6 feet apart — maintain social distancing in & around church property. We may admit only 33% of our seating capacity. Only certain pews will be available for seating. Families may sit together.
- ⇒ Sanitize hands upon entry and departure.
- ⇒ Offering/collection baskets will be available upon entry. Online giving is always an option. Bringing up offertory gifts is suspended.
- ⇒ Single Entry/Exit — Come early and use the front doors where you will be escorted to the pew.
- ⇒ Holy Water — No holy water in the font. You may bring a water bottle for Father/Deacon to bless & take home.
- ⇒ No Missals — All missals and paper resources are currently not available. You may bring your own worship aids but if you leave them behind, it will be thrown out. The Parish App offers online worship aids on your phone.
- ⇒ No Singing. Our Music Director will sing for us while we meditate on the lyrics.
- ⇒ Our Father — the practice of holding hands during the Lord's Prayer should not take place.
- ⇒ Sign of Peace — No hand shakes; acknowledge others with a smile/wave.
- ⇒ Holy Eucharist — Communion will be distributed only in the hand. Ushers will direct you. Approach the minister only one pew at a time, observing the six-foot distancing.
- ⇒ Ministers distributing Communion will wear masks. They will sanitize their hands before and after distribution.
- ⇒ Communion may not be distributed with gloves, nor be received by a parishioner who is wearing gloves; risks of mishaps with the Eucharist are too great.
- ⇒ Distribution of Communion will be carefully "dropped" in the cupped hand to avoid skin contact.
- ⇒ Pews will be cleaned before and after every worship service.
- ⇒ Be sure to take home everything you bring.
- ⇒ After Mass ends, wait until the usher directs you out of church. Departure will be done pew by pew to avoid congestion at the doors.
- ⇒ Hospitality and parish socials are suspended until further notice.
- ⇒ Check parish websites and social media platforms for any changes to our public schedules.

**It's Not a Fear Response. It's a Faith Response.**