



Ministers of Hospitality

1. Why is a Minister of Hospitality (MOH) necessary?

The MOH is necessary when we re-open our Church for public worship to assist the parish staff in making sure worshippers follow the established health and safety guidelines set forth by the parish.

2. What are the responsibilities of the MOH?

The MOH will be the first person that worshippers will greet upon entering the Church. The MOH will ensure that the Church does not exceed its capacity for any given liturgy, direct worshippers to their seats, direct the line for the reception of Holy Communion and direct the exit from the Church at the end of the liturgy.

3. What characteristics/qualities are necessary for the MOH?

The MOH should be, first and foremost, friendly and welcoming. Some people will be very nervous on returning to Church for the first time in awhile and the MOH should serve to calm their nerves and assure them that the Church is a safe place to be in public. The MOH should also be able to be firm when necessary, for example, if someone comes without a mask.

4. Will there be special training for the MOH?

Yes. Once the re-opening date is set, the MOH will participate in a training session conducted by the parish staff in the Church.

5. Will I be working this ministry alone or as part of a team?

Each MOH will be a part of a “Mass team” which will have, ideally, four (4) team members. As the weeks go by and more people are comfortable in their return to Church, the number of teams should grow.

6. Will I be expected to function in this role every week?

We will not have a clear answer until we know how many teams we will have. For some Masses, it is possible that fewer teams will be assigned until people are more comfortable returning to Church.

7. What is the time commitment expected for each Mass? Overall?

The MOH will be asked to arrive thirty (30) minutes before the start of Mass to allow worshippers to enter Church. The MOH will remain for approximately fifteen (15) minutes after Mass has ended to ensure the Church is clear and help with the sanitizing the Church.

Overall, we expect that MOH teams to function in this ministry until restrictions on larger gatherings are lifted. Again, we encourage as many volunteers as possible so that we have several teams in rotation each weekend.

8. Will I be compensated as a MOH?

No. Service in this ministry is strictly voluntary.

9. Do I expose myself to contracting COVID-19 by participating in this ministry?

No. Our parish has taken precautions in response to the guidelines mandated by the CDC, the state government and the Archdiocese of Newark. These guidelines include the wearing of masks by ministers and parishioners, social distancing requirements and a strict protocol for the cleaning and sanitizing of the pews, doors, etc. in Church.

10. How do I deal with someone who refuses to comply with the rules?

As much as we will publicize the rules and expectations for worshippers returning to Mass, human nature being what it is, we know there will be some who will not comply with the rules. The MOH is not expected to be a policeman but someone who will gently and firmly explain why the rules must be followed; they are crafted, first and foremost, for everyone's safety. In the event someone absolutely refuses to comply, the MOH should notify the staff member on duty to deal with the situation.

11. Will there be special seating for MOH? May I still sit with my family/companions?

The last row of the Church will be reserved exclusively for the MOH and his or her family/companions. Since the MOH is "working" during the time that Mass is being offered, he or she must be able to see the entire Church.

12. Will the Mass that I am volunteering at count as my Sunday obligation?

Cardinal Tobin has lifted the obligation for Catholics to attend Mass until further notice. However, the answer to this question is “yes”, the Mass at which you volunteer as a MOH will count towards your Sunday obligation, whether you receive Holy Communion or not.

13. Can I request a specific Mass to volunteer at?

Yes.

Will I have to take the collection or hand out bulletins?

No. During the re-opening of our Church, the collection has been suspended and bulletins, if any, will be at the doors of the Church for individuals to take themselves, thus reducing contact with another person.

14. What do I do about latecomers to Mass?

As part of the re-opening guidelines and announcements, those who attend Mass will be required to be in the Church ten (10) minutes before the Mass begins. Late-comers will not be admitted into the Church.

15. What are my responsibilities after Mass?

Once the Mass ends (after the hymn), the MOH will begin dismissing rows at a time, beginning in the front of Church. Worshippers will all leave through the side door near the Rectory on Fort Lee Road.

After the pews have been dismissed, the MOH team will move through the Church to make sure nothing has been left behind, discarding any trash (gloves will be available) and then help with sanitizing the Church.

Training will be on Tuesday, June 23, 2020 from 7p.m. to 8:30p.m. in the Church.