

**FROM THE BISHOP:  
GENERAL NORMS AND PROTOCOLS FOR CELEBRATION OF PUBLIC MASS**

PRELIMINARY REMARKS

1. For all gatherings inside churches, the maximum number of participants should be limited to 1/3 of the building capacity, utilizing only every third pew.
2. Dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday and holy day Masses remains in place.
3. The elderly and people with vulnerabilities should continue to stay at home until they are comfortable attending Church.
4. Those who are not yet comfortable with being in public should continue worshipping from home.
5. Priests and deacons only (no lay ministers) may visit the home-bound for non-emergency sacramental visits but must wear masks when doing so.
6. Priests and deacons may resume regular pastoral visits to hospitals and nursing homes, but only when the hospital or nursing home permits such visits, and only following all hospital or nursing home protocols.
7. It may be necessary to adjust the Mass schedules to allow sufficient time to clean the church.

GENERAL NORMS FOR ALL MASSES

1. The following actions are suspended:
  - \* Exchange of the sign of peace among parishioners
  - \* Distribution of the Precious Blood
  - \* Placing of holy water in fonts
  - \* Greeting of parishioners at the door before or after Mass
2. The doors to the church are to be propped open before Mass and after Mass, so that no one needs to touch the doors entering or leaving. They will need to be closed during Mass due to noise or weather.
3. Hand sanitizer is to be available at the church entrance for parishioners.
4. Everyone except the liturgical ministers in the sanctuary are to wear masks and practice social distancing.
5. A Collection basket will be available near the Baptismal Font to drop offertory envelopes in.
6. Parishioners must be prepared not to sit in their usual pew and must be flexible enough to sit wherever there is adequate room or the usher seats them.
7. Members of the same household may sit together. Multiple households may share a pew, provided they are at least six feet apart.
8. Nothing is to be in the pews. Hymnals and Missalettes will not be available.
9. There are to be no entrance processions, no processions to present the gifts, and no closing processions. The priest should enter and exit directly from the sacristy, and the water, wine and hosts will be prepared beforehand on a table in the sanctuary.
10. Masses and other liturgies are to be kept very simple. There is to be no more than one lector, one altar server, one musician, & one cantor in the sanctuary. Music is limited to the sung Mass parts.
11. Communion Rite:
  - \*At this time Communion will only be distributed in the hand, not on the tongue.
  - \*Only the priest and one other minister should distribute Communion.
  - \*Approach single-file, maintaining social distance unless with a household group.
  - \* Distribution will be done by sections and the process will be explained prior to Mass.
  - \*Face mask should continue to be worn until you receive the Host in your hand. Step to the side and remove the mask to consume the Eucharist, then replace the mask to return to your seat.
  - \*There will be a table near the minister with hand sanitizer to use in case of accidental contact with a communicant.
12. At the end of Mass, parishioners should depart in an orderly manner maintaining social distance and should go directly to their vehicles. There will be no gathering in the church, in the vestibule, or in the parking lot.

