



Abbreviated Directives regarding re-opening of our Parishes

(Taken from Bishop Mulvey's Directives as published on 30 April 2020)

- **Public Masses** will resume with limited seating (25% of seating capacity is permitted), on the weekend of May 9/10. No parish is to exceed the 25% seating capacity.
- **All the faithful** are dispensed from the obligation to attend Mass on Sunday through the month of June. If parishioners are concerned about receiving Communion at this time, for any reason, please understand that Catholics are required to receive Communion once a year. Parishioners are certainly able to remain in the pew and pray the prayer for Spiritual Communion.
- **Those who** are symptomatic or who have been exposed to someone with the virus within 14 days are not permitted to enter the church, in accordance with national, state and local health directives. All parishioners are asked to check their temperature at home before coming to church.
- **Those who are at risk** because of an underlying health issue or who are over 65 are strongly encouraged, for their own health, to avoid the risk of attending public celebrations of the Mass.
- **Parishes are encouraged** to live stream Mass, even daily, so that those unable to attend in person may maintain a spiritual connection with their local church.
- **The faithful are encouraged** to wear a mask (or other face covering) upon entering the church and during the celebration of Mass. You may remove the mask when seated in the pew and to receive Holy Communion.
- **REGARDLESS OF THE COUNTY IN WHICH YOUR PARISH IS LOCATED, THE 25% SEATING CAPACITY IS NOT TO BE EXCEEDED.**
- **Cry Rooms** should remain closed.
- **Holding hands** while reciting the Our Father is **not** permitted. The Sign of Peace is suspended.
- **For the distribution of Holy Communion**, ushers or other volunteers who are masked and gloved are to ensure six-foot distancing in the Communion line.
- **Gloves should not** be worn when for the reception of Holy Communion.
- **Distribution of Precious Blood** to the assembly is prohibited. For those who are gluten intolerant, special arrangements are to be made with the pastor.
- **During this time, Holy Communion is to be distributed in the hand** in keeping with the advice of state health officials and thereby avoiding the Communion minister's fingers coming into contact with saliva. Please note: If a person is determined to receive on the tongue, the priest celebrant is to arrange for reception of Holy Communion in a safe manner for them after Mass.
- **Pastors/Parochial Administrators** have a complete set of directives with further information. They will keep you informed on these matters.
- **If you have any questions** concerning any of these Directives, please speak to your parish priest(s).