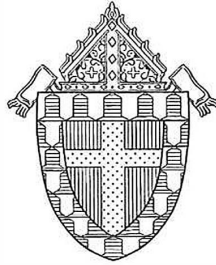


DIOCESE OF LAFAYETTE



Guidelines for Returning to Public Liturgies During Phase I of COVID-19 Reopening Plan

As our churches reopen, the following guidelines will remain in place during Phase I of public reopening of Masses and other Liturgies.

Once the reopening of churches for public worship is allowed by public authorities, it is important that we do not lose sight of the fact that the COVID-19 Virus is a highly contagious and dangerous pathogen. We must maintain and continue our precautionary measures to ensure we are protecting one another from the spread of the virus. The reopening for public worship must necessarily be gradual and in accordance with governmental directives. It is the responsibility of the pastor to ensure that these directives are enforced.

BE INFORMED AND COMMUNICATE

1. Persons who are ill (fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, loss of taste/smell etc.) as well as those with preexisting conditions should not attend Mass. Also, persons over 65 years old are at a higher risk of experiencing worse symptoms than others if they contract the coronavirus virus and should consider not attending Mass.
2. Parishioners should not be imprudent about returning to Mass. Continue doing online Masses for parishioners who are at risk, are not able to attend Mass because of State occupancy regulations, and/or are experiencing anxiety and fear.
3. Until retracted or altered by Bishop Deshotel, **all Catholics in the Diocese of Lafayette remain dispensed from their obligation from attending Sunday Masses.** All the bishops of the State of Louisiana have determined that **Catholics may fulfill their spiritual duty to consecrating the week (Sabbath) on any day of the week, including Monday-Saturday morning.**
4. According to State regulation during Phase I, **persons in public gatherings are required to wear masks or face coverings.** Through the donation of generous donors, the Diocese has a *limited*

number of masks. These masks will be distributed to your parish by Mr. Jack Bienvenu, Office of Risk Management, (see contact information below) which may be distributed to parishioners who forget to bring facial coverings. Encourage people to have their own pocket/purse supply of hand sanitizer.

PREPARE YOUR CHURCH

1. Chalices and empty vessels should be washed in soap and water or wiped with isopropyl alcohol and allowed to dry. In parishes with more than one priest, priests may choose to reserve a specific chalice for his use only.
2. Deep clean your entire church. Where will germs be transferred? Consider shampooing carpets, sanitizing pews, bathrooms, doorknobs, light switches, microphones, ministers' chairs, and pulpits.
3. Use chemicals and disinfectants as directed and allow for the proper dry times. At this link you will find a list of approved disinfectants for COVID-19: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html>. If you are experiencing problems obtaining sufficient cleaning supplies, please contact Jack Bienvenu (office 337-735-9449; cell 337-342-0614) or Al Landry (office 337-735-9429; cell 337-380-3831) for recommendations.
4. Holy Water fonts are to remain empty and dry.
5. Temporarily remove all missalettes, hymnals, Bibles, pens, information cards, etc., from pews. Music sheets may be handed out by masked/gloved volunteers or placed with the bulletin in assigned seating prior to Mass.
6. Post signs about not shaking hands and substituting non-contact greetings. Consider marking sidewalks, porch or plaza entry ways where lines will form with painter's tape or chalk to indicate six feet spacing.
7. Prepare the seating areas of your church to ensure social distancing. At least every other pew should be blocked off. Consider using painter's tape, yellow caution tape, rope, signs (DO NOT SIT), cones, etc. to indicate the distance needed. Removable tape and/or weekend bulletins/song sheets can be used to delineate six feet distances.