

MEMORANDUM

TO: Pastors / Administrators
CC: All Priests
FROM: Msgr. Marc Caron
RE: Celebration of the Mass and Sacraments, COVID Update no. 3
DATE: June 3, 2021

Please keep in mind the following as your parish begins to lift the various restrictions and modifications to the celebration of Mass and the Sacraments which were imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is now time to begin to return to as regular a celebration of various liturgies as possible, taking into account what the liturgical books require, not only what has become expedient out of necessity.

- Catholics will once again be obligated to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days beginning on the Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time, June 19-20, Fathers' Day Weekend.
- Parishes are asked to continue the following for the time being:
 - Parishes should continue to live-stream Mass for those who cannot be present.
 - Have sanitizer available at the entrances of the church.
 - No physical exchange of the sign of peace.
 - Sanitizing hands before and after giving Communion.
 - Have sanitizer available at each Communion station in case there is physical contact between the minister and the communicant
 - No cups for Communion; concelebration by priests should continue by intinction
 - Have one cantor and one instrumentalist to lead the limited singing of the people
- Parishes are asked to begin implementing the following between now and August 1:
 - Clear out accumulated chairs, tables, cleaning supplies, posters, displays, etc. related to the pandemic from the narthex, reconciliation room, and other areas of the church.
 - Hand out or make available printed materials (hymnals, bulletins, lectionaries flyers) etc.

Office of the Vicar General & Moderator of the Curia

207-773-6471 Ext. 7826

marc.caron@portlanddiocese.org

- Make holy water available at entrances.
 - Once ministers have been trained and scheduled, the entrance procession, the Gospel procession, collections of the offerings and offertory processions, and the recessional can resume as usual.
 - Mass with the participation of the faithful begins at the chair with a server holding the Missal. Servers bring what is needed from a credence table to the altar at the preparation of the gifts.
 - Recitation of the Act of Spiritual Communion during Mass should end. The text can scroll across the bottom of the live-streaming screen.
 - The distribution of communion takes place in the usual procession toward designated communion stations. No social distancing is required. Distribution of communion at everyone's seat is discontinued except, at the parish's discretion, for a designated section in the front for those with limited mobility.
 - Celebrate the rite of baptism of infants, or wedding, or funerals according to the usual indications found in the liturgical books.
 - The use of confessionals and reconciliation rooms can resume.
-
- Staff and volunteers must treat the vaccinated and unvaccinated equally.
 - Treat those wearing masks and those not wearing masks equally.
 - Anyone is free to wear of mask if he or she wishes.
 - It is recommended that those not vaccinated wear a mask. Parishes can post reminders to this effect.
 - If the parish makes socially distanced-seating available, it cannot determine who sits in that seating.