

Additional Details for the Celebration of the Sacraments

All three steps require the maintenance of social distancing, wearing face protection, the use of sanitizer and cleaning/disinfecting following each use of the space, and objects such as books not being shared.

Step 1 – Opening the churches, without public Mass

Step 2 – Limited public worship, including Mass

Eucharist

Before Mass

- Vessels for the hosts should be filled ahead of time to avoid handling the hosts at the fraction. A single large host should be used by the priest alone.
- A separate chalice should be prepared for each cleric in advance, who will purify the chalice he used.
- Place a stand near the presider's chair to hold the Missal (rather than using a server).

Communion

- The Communion Rite is an essential and unmovable element in the Order of Mass.
- Communion is distributed only under the form of bread and is not distributed on the tongue.
- Distributors should sanitize their hands before and after distributing Communion.
- The ritual dialogue is not said if a communicant presents without a mask.
- Avoid touching the communicant's hands. Gloves are not worn.
- It is not intended that everyone present will bring Communion to those at home.

Communion Procession – Instructions for the Assembly

Use hand sanitizer before leaving your seat. Approach the minister wearing your face protection. Receive the host on your palm and step aside. Take the host in your other hand. Lower your mask with your free hand. Consume the Eucharist. Replace your face protection. Use hand sanitizer when you return to your place.

Exposition and Adoration

The public celebration of Exposition and Adoration is permitted. Limited to 30 minutes. Adoration chapels are closed.

Baptism of Infants and Children

- Baptism is limited to a single child or children from a single family.
- Baptism is celebrated only outside of Mass.
- The entire rite takes place at the font.
- A reader may be used.
- The signing of the child takes place without touching, except by the parents.
- The anointing with OC is omitted. The alternate prayer is used.
- Immersion is not used.
- A cotton ball is used for the anointing with Chrism.
- The family should provide the white garment if possible.
- The baptismal candle is not passed from one person to another.
- The ephphatha is omitted.

Additional Details for the Celebration of the Sacraments

Confirmation

- The faculty to Confirm is granted to pastors and to other priests who have full pastoral care of the faithful in their charge.
- To maintain the seating limits in the church, consider:
 - Celebrating individual or small group Confirmations across a series of Masses.
 - If the class is small enough and it is desired to Confirm as a group, consider a separate Mass or Confirmation outside of Mass.
- Rite of Confirmation
 - Sponsors avoid placing their right hand on the candidate's shoulder.
 - Hands are not imposed before the consecratory prayer (it is not part of the rite).
 - The anointing itself may not be done with an instrument. Therefore, the oil must be wiped off and the thumb cleansed with sanitizer between candidates.
 - The sign of peace is exchanged verbally (hands are not shaken).

First Communion

- To maintain the seating limits in the church, consider:
 - Celebrating individual or small group First Communions across a series of Masses.
 - If the class is small enough and it is desired, consider a separate Mass.
- Reminder: The Precious Blood is not distributed.

RCIA

- Once churches are opened for public worship, the candidates are to be received and Confirmed.
- To maintain the seating limits in the church, consider:
 - Celebrating individual or small group Receptions/Confirmations across a series of Masses.
 - If the group is small enough and it is desired, consider a separate Mass.
- The Diocese will establish a date for the full initiation of the Catechumens.
 - Rite:
 - Immersion is not used.
 - Omit the white garment to avoid passing items between persons.
 - The godparent retrieves and lights the candle, and passes it to the candidate.
 - See "Confirmation" above.

Weddings

- Weddings outside of Mass are preferred.
- A reader may be used.
- Only the couple handles the rings (and arras). Because the lazo requires others to impose it, it is omitted.

Additional Details for the Celebration of the Sacraments

Funeral Rites

- Vigil
 - May be omitted. If celebrated, observe civil guidelines regarding the number who may be in attendance at a funeral home. Always maintain 6' distance.
 - A reader may be used.
 - The body is not to be approached or touched.
- Funeral Liturgy
 - Celebration outside of Mass is preferred for reasons of time.
 - The placing of the pall may take place if the same person(s) place and remove the pall. Either it is laundered after every funeral or it is not used for at least 72 hours.
 - The placing of the Christian symbols is omitted.
 - The presider should proclaim the readings, or a reader may be used.
 - The incensation is omitted if a 6' distance from worshippers cannot be maintained.
- Committal
 - The sign or gesture of leave-taking may not include touching or kissing a common object, such as the coffin.

Reconciliation

- When the church is open, the priest may schedule times for confession.
- No more than 10 people may be in the church at any one time.
- The confessionals are not used.
- The preferred place for confession is in the church. An open space that allows for both privacy and the circulation of air should be chosen. An impermeable screen should be provided.
- If necessary, confessions may be heard outdoors or through an office window (but not in a "drive-up" arrangement).
- Form II is not celebrated. Form III is not permitted.

Pastoral Care of the Sick and Dying

- The pastoral care of those with COVID-19 is reserved to the designated priest and governed by its own protocols.
- The following applies to pastoral care of those who are not suspected to have COVID-19.
- Care for the home-bound or those in institutions should take place by phone or other electronic means.
- Routine visits to those in institutions for Communion are suspended.
- If a home visit is deemed necessary, EMHCs do not make home visits. Pastors may grant an exception to parish nurses.
- Communal celebration of Anointing of the Sick is suspended.

Step 3 – Lifting Some Limitations for Public Worship, including Mass

Eucharist

- Seating every other row/pew is permitted as long as a 6' distance is still maintained.
- A server may assist.
- Bulletins may be distributed by someone who wears gloves.

Exposition and Adoration

- Prolonged adoration in the church with no more than 10 present is permitted.

Additional Details for the Celebration of the Sacraments

Baptism of Infants and Children

- If the Baptism involves children from a single family, it may take place at Mass.
- If the Baptism involves children from more than one family, it is only celebrated outside of Mass.
- If the Baptism involves a single child, the cleric and the parents sign the infant.
- If the Baptism involves children from more than one family, the signing is done by the parents.
- A reader should be used.
- The anointing with OC may take place. Use a different cotton ball each child. Can use hand if one child.

Weddings

- Weddings may be celebrated within Mass.
- A server may be used, as at Mass.
- It is preferred that only the couple handles the rings and arras (if used).

Funeral Rites

- Vigil
 - Observe civil guidelines regarding the number who may be in attendance at a funeral home.
 - The body is not to be touched (or approached if the cause of death was COVID-19).
- Funeral Liturgy
 - May be celebrated within Mass.
 - The placing of the Christian symbols may take place as long as the same person places and removes the symbol(s), and the symbol(s) can be cleaned and disinfected after each funeral.
 - Readers and a server may be used, as at Mass.
 - The incensation may take place.

Reconciliation

- The use of Form II (communal) celebration of the sacrament requires privacy and the maintaining of social distance; it is limited to 30 minutes. Instead of Form II, extended time for private confession (Form I) may be offered.

Pastoral Care of the Sick and Dying

- Pastoral visits to those in institutions by priests, deacons, and parish nurses are permitted.
- The procedures and restrictions in place at the institution must be observed.
- Diocesan protocols must be followed.
- Visits to facilities with COVID-19 patients is still limited to the designated priest.
- Home visits by clergy, parish nurses and EMHC's who are not at high risk are permitted.
- The communal celebration of the Anointing of the Sick at Mass is strongly discouraged. If celebrated, a single-use instrument (such as a cotton swab) is used for the anointing. Laying on of hands is done over the person rather than by touch.
- Keep total time together to 30 minutes.
- The bishop may suspend the communal celebration of Anointing of the Sick.