



DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE

THE CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS IN TIME OF PANDEMIC

UPDATES

The following summary is based on updates made to the diocesan *Instructions for the Celebration of the Sacraments in Time of Pandemic* after consulting new guidelines provided by the CDC and the advice of medical professionals.

GENERAL

- The current capacity for worship is 50% with social distancing.
- Gatherings in church buildings, outside of worship, are limited to 100 people. Gathering outside of church buildings are limited to 200 people.
- “Household” refers to those who live together as well as those who interact with one another on a regular basis (drive together, socialize, etc.).
- Spaces of public use no longer require frequent sanitation, but should be sanitized once a day, particularly high-touch surfaces (i.e. door knobs, restrooms, etc.)
- Spaces of public use are to continue to be well-ventilated.
- Hand sanitizer for all present is to continue to be used.
- Social distancing (6ft. apart) must continue at this time. Vaccination status does not change this directive.
- Masks must continue to be worn even after vaccination for ages 2 and up, including all ministers of the Liturgy.
- A system of registration for events is to continue to be used for the purposes of planning and contact tracing.
 - There may be more than one entry point provided that the faithful are checking in and those present are being accounted for.
 - The faithful no longer need to exit through one door.
- More than one Altar Server, Lector, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Eucharist may participate in liturgies.

PARTICULAR: THE HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS

- The dispensation from the obligation of attending Mass on Sundays and Holydays of Obligation is still in effect, but only for those who need it because of health or age.
- Communal holy water fonts are still not to be used. However, holy water “dispensers” may be used or individual bottles may be given or filled from a large container with a spout.
- Hymnals and Worship Aids:
 - Hymnals can be given out to the faithful to be taken home and brought back for individual use.
 - Disposable Worship Aids can be printed each week for individual use.
- Congregational singing continues to be permitted.
- Choirs are permitted provided that a distance of 12 ft. is maintained between singers and members of the congregation. Likewise, small ensembles of instrumentalists are permitted provided distance is maintained.
- Offertory gifts are not yet permitted to be brought to the altar by the faithful in a procession. Likewise, the collection taken at the offertory is not yet permitted. Continue to use centrally located receptacles.
- Physical exchange of the sign of peace between members of different households is still not permitted.
- The reception of Holy Communion using hand sanitizer, masks, distancing, etc. is to continue.
 - Ciboria are to continue to be covered or placed to the side of the altar during the Eucharistic Prayer.
 - The Precious Blood is still not to be offered.
 - The reception of Holy Communion on the tongue is still recommended against by the CDC, WHO, and a blue-ribbon panel of Catholic doctors; consequently, it may only take place at the end of the Communion line of the priest or deacon.

Questions may be directed to: Mrs. Danielle E. Cummings, Chancellor/Director of Communications at 315.470.1476, Father Christopher Seibt, Director of the Office of Liturgy at 315.470.1420, or to info@syrдио.org.