



Guidelines for Resuming of Public Masses In the Catholic Diocese of Wichita

The following guidelines are based upon the restrictions established for Sedgwick County. Pastors in other counties that provide different restrictions are requested to consult with Fr. David Lies, vicar general, about implementing practices that may vary from these guidelines. Those who do choose to attend public Masses are asked to abide by the following guidelines, without exceptions:

- Communion to the homebound may be provided to those persons who are open to receiving a priest or Eucharistic Minister to the Homebound into their homes.
- Small parish gatherings and/or groups may begin to meet at the pastor's discretion and following the current guidelines for public gatherings (i.e. Bible Study, Faith Formation, Rosary, RCIA, etc.)
- Receptions at the parish for weddings, funerals and other parish events may be held at the pastor's discretion and following the current guidelines for public gatherings.
- Masses may only be celebrated indoors, in churches, chapels, gymnasiums or parish halls. Outdoor Masses are prohibited until further notice.
- Pastors should determine the best way in their church settings to limit the number of person to 33% of occupancy of their worship space.
 - Until further notice, Holy Communion is not to be distributed outside of Mass.
 - Allowing the use of only one entrance into the church would be a possibility to facilitate counting persons.
 - Prop open the entry door(s), or have a designated person hold open the door(s) to reduce multiple touches and exposure on it/them.
- Persons who live in the same house may sit together, but with no more than ten persons within in each group. Others must sit at least six feet from other individuals or groupings.
 - Marking six foot intervals on the pews could assist in prompt spacing and seating of persons.
 - Churches with fixed seating or pews should leave pews in front of and behind occupied pews vacant.

- Persons should be seated starting at the front of church and moving to the back as they enter in order to facilitate prompt spacing and seating.
- Ushers should guide persons at the back of the church to depart first followed by the next rows leading to the front of the church.
- Persons are strongly encouraged to wear masks before, during and after the Mass, with the exception of receiving Holy Communion.
 - Feedback from Phase One indicated that offering some instruction to the faithful on how to receive communion and consume the host while wearing a mask could be helpful.
- Priests are required to wear masks only during the distribution of Holy Communion.
 - If hosts for the communion of the faithful are to be consecrated, they should be placed on a second corporal towards the side of the altar. This allows the priest to pronounce the words of consecration directly over the host he will consume, with the other hosts on the altar, but not directly in front of the priest as he speaks the Eucharistic prayer.
- As much as possible, and according to availability of supplies, hand sanitizer should be made available for persons to use in church, or persons should be encouraged to bring their own.
- Adequate ventilation and air circulation in inhabited spaces should be provided with the use of HVAC systems or, weather permitting, opened windows or doors.
- In an effort to reduce exposure, only essential persons should assist with Mass. If possible, limit the number of ushers, greeters, altar servers, musicians, cantors and other ministers needed for each Mass.
 - All those who assist with Mass must maintain social distancing.
 - Persons are strongly encouraged to receive Holy Communion in the hand, or to make an Act of Spiritual Communion.
 - Priests should remind the faithful of the proper way to receive in the hand so as to allow the minister to drop the host into the palm without touching the hand or accidentally dropping the host.
 - Only priests may distribute Holy Communion to persons on the tongue.
 - If the priest's fingers happen to touch the tongue of the communicant, he must purify his hands with hand sanitizer before offering communion to the next communicant.
- Receiving the Precious Blood from the cup shall remain suppressed until further notice.

Fully Alive as Missionary Disciples

- In approaching Holy Communion, persons are required to maintain a six foot distance from each other.
 - Marking the communion aisle with tape at six foot intervals could help maintain proper spacing.
 - Six feet of space should also be ensured between persons sitting in the ends of the pews or rows of chairs and persons standing in the communion line.
- Ordinary and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion must use hand sanitizer before and after the distribution of Holy Communion.
- The extension of the Sign of Peace shall remain discontinued.
- Children’s Liturgy of the Word is not to be resumed until further notice.
- The collection is not to be taken by the passing of a basket.
 - It is recommended that the persons place their offerings in a common collection basket as they enter or exit the Church.
- There is to be no offertory procession until further notice.
- Holy Water fonts should remain empty.
- People are kindly requested to use social distancing space of six (6) feet when socializing before or after the liturgy so as to avoid the spreading of infection.
 - Any other exchanges of peace or greetings before or after Mass should be omitted.
- If possible, and according to the availability of supplies, allow adequate time between Masses to disinfect pews and other areas of the church, including restrooms, cry rooms or other spaces inhabited by persons.
- Consider the removal of all hymnals, missals, prayer cards or other material kept in the pews, otherwise those items will need to be disinfected if touched.
 - Sung music should only be offered by Mass cantors and the priest. Singing by persons in attendance at Mass is discouraged to limit the possibility of the oral transmission of the COVID-19 virus.