



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, particularly 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 choir members and between the choir and members of the congregation. Likewise, small ensembles of instrumentalists are permitted provided the same 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@syrdio.org.