

## CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES OF CHEROKEE AND HOLSTEIN

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### RE-OPENING DIRECTIVES FOR THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF CHEROKEE AND HOLSTEIN PHASE 1 – LIMITED ATTENDANCE: SUNDAY MASS

These Directives follow the **INSTRUCTIONS FOR RESUMING THE PUBLIC CELEBRATION OF MASS** as issued by Bishop Nickless on 14 May 2020.

Phase 1 will kick in AFTER cases of COVID-19 begin to drop in Iowa and then after fourteen [14] days and then after the Bishop gives pastors of the Diocese of Sioux City permission to open church buildings for public Masses.

1. **The obligation to attend Sunday Mass for all the faithful [for all parishioners] is still dispensed. It is not a mortal sin to miss Sunday Mass during this time** even though it is being offered online and in church. **All persons over age 65 and all with underlying health issues are highly encouraged NOT to attend public Masses at this time.**
2. **Parishioners are not to attend public Mass** who are
  - a. at a higher risk
  - b. caretakers of those at risk
  - c. are not feeling well
  - d. have a high fever, cough, difficulty breathing, and showing symptoms of COVID-19
3. **Parishioners are encouraged to attend Mass in their home parish**, parish of registration or residence in order to allow parishioners the first opportunity to attend Mass in their home parish.
4. No Public Masses will be held if the pastor is quarantined due to contact with someone who has tested positive with COVID-19 or is ill with the disease. Substitute and retired priests will NOT be called to preside at the Mass.
5. If **flare-ups of the virus** should occur locally or regionally, public Mass may be cancelled at a moment's notice.
6. One [1] **ONLINE MASS** will be broadcast each weekend, most likely Saturday evening.
7. The restriction against so-called "parking lot Masses" and "drive-thru confessions" remains in force.
8. Sufficient **cleaning and sanitizing** materials [certified and approved for COVID-19] will be on hand.
9. Arrangements for **cleaning/sanitizing the church** between Masses will be in place.
10. **All Ushers, Readers<sup>1</sup>, and EMOHC<sup>2</sup>** are to be under age sixty [65].
11. **Ushers** will be trained on how to greet/welcome, seat people, take attendance, dismiss attendees, and assist with cleaning and sanitizing.
12. **The church building will remain locked** until thirty [30] minutes before Mass and which time the entry doors [if possible] will be blocked open to avoid everyone from touching the door handles.

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<sup>1</sup> If used.

<sup>2</sup> If used.

13. **Entry into church will be restricted** to one door at the main north entrance.
14. **Facemasks** are required to be worn by all adults<sup>3</sup> and children over the age of two [2] in addition to the required with social distancing as these both work in tandem to curb coming into contact with the respiratory droplets that are emitted from the nose and mouth, which in turn introduces viral contamination in the building. Persons over age two unable to wear a facemask will not be admitted. The presider will not wear a facemask during Mass. The presider and all ministers assisting with Holy Communion will each wear a facemask.
15. **No holy water, song books**, or other printed materials will be provided.
16. **Hand sanitizer** station will at the church entrance and everyone entering is REQUIRED to sanitize properly sanitize their hands.
17. **A collection basket** or box will be placed near the entrance. Yet, we encourage people to continue sending their tithing via mail or ACH or online.
18. **No gloves** are to be worn.<sup>4</sup>
19. **Seating** will be on a first-come-first-served basis and will start from the front pew and work to the back pew.
20. **Pews** will be marked for those to be used and those not to be used with an open pew, two closed pews, an open pew, etc. All pew cushions from pews to be used will be removed.
21. Attendees will be seated in accord with **social distancing** guidelines—individuals, husband/wife, and family units must sit six [6] feet apart in each pew.
  - a. Two [2] individuals may be seated in one [1] pew.
  - b. One [1] large family [6 to 10] may be seated in one [1] pew.
  - c. Two [2] husband/wife units may be seated in one [1] pew.
  - d. One [1] individual and one [1] husband/wife unit may be seated in one [1] pew.
  - e. One [1] individual and one [1] small family [3-4 unit may be seated in one [1] pew.
  - f. One [1] husband/wife unit and one [1] small family [3-4 unit may be seated in one [1] pew.
22. **Went seating is full** the church will be locked and ‘late-comers’ turned away.
23. **The church building will be locked** during Mass.
24. All church buildings are equipped with **panic bars** and thus in case of an emergency, all persons may safely exit the building even though the doors are locked.
25. **Bathrooms** will be off limits and closed at this time [unless there is an emergency need] in order to control the spread of COVID-19 in this highly infectious area of the church.
26. The **only person permitted in the sacristy** is the presiding priest. If other clergy are present, they must distance themselves in the sacristy, when possible.
27. The **only person permitted in the sanctuary** is the presiding priest. If other clergy are present, they must distance themselves in the sanctuary, when possible. There will be no Altar Servers.
28. There will be **no entrance, offertory, or recessional processions** at Mass—except for the distribution of Holy Communion.

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<sup>3</sup> including concelebrating priests, deacon, Readers, and EMOHC. The presiding priest would not wear a mask and deacons and Readers may remove their mask while proclaiming the word.

<sup>4</sup> Gloves give a false sense of security. According to the CDC and the WHO, touching a surface that is contaminated or otherwise coming into contact with the virus with your hands does not result in contagion, contagion takes place when we then touch our face. Once contaminated, gloves transfer the virus just as effectively as unwashed hands and the CDC says that the only reason to wear gloves is if doing so reminds the wearer not to touch their face.

- 29. Music/singing will be limited** as this activity can spread germs even further than regular speaking. No cantor will be used at this time. An organist may be permitted for the limited signing and for instrumental music when people are entering and exiting.
- 30.** There will be **no sign of peace**.
- 31. HOLY COMMUNION will be distributed to the faithful after the conclusion of Mass.**
- a. Ushers will dismiss pews so people may approach the minister in single file at proper social distance
    - i. Individuals – six [6] feet from the next individual, husband/wife, family unit
    - ii. Husband/wife - six [6] feet from the next individual, husband/wife, family unit
    - iii. Family unit - six [6] feet from the next individual, husband/wife, family unit
  - b. It is strongly suggested that communion be **received only in the hand**.
  - c. The Minister[s] of Holy Communion will **sanitize** his/her hands immediately before the distribution of communion and will be wearing a facemask.
  - d. **Communicant must remain as far as possible from the Minister of Holy Communion while wearing a facemask**, yet close enough for the Minister to place the host in the wide-open hand without touching the communicant's hand.
  - e. If the Minister touches the communicant's hand, the Minister will pause to **sanitize** his/her hand.
  - f. The communicant will
    - i. **step aside**
    - ii. **carefully temporarily remove their facemask**
    - iii. **receive the host**
    - iv. **replace the facemask**
    - v. **exit the church** at the nearest exit
      1. At IC-Cherokee: Northwest exit down the wheelchair ramp.
      2. At OLG-C-Holstein: East exit past the organist.
    - vi. **depart immediately to their vehicle**
  - g. Individuals, husband/wife, and family unit are encouraged to spend some **quiet prayer time** in their vehicle before departing.
  - h. **No one is permitted to socialize** with other individuals, husbands/wives, and/or family units before or after Mass in the church, in the parking lot, or on parish property.
- 32. Violations of these directives** could result in:
- a. **the removal** of the offender[s]
  - b. **the postponement or cancellation** of the Mass to begin
  - c. **the cancellation** of future Masses until further notice
- 33. Cleansing and sanitizing** protocols will be followed after each Mass.
- 34. Other Parish Activities**
- a. The public celebration of daily Masses will remain suspended.
  - b. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will remain suspended.
  - c. Special parish events and liturgies will remain suspended.
  - d. Any activities that precede or follow Mass remain suspended.
  - e. Confessions will continue to be heard by appointment only.
  - f. Communion visits to the homebound, care facilities, and hospitals will remain suspended, except in danger of death.