



## LITURGICAL AND SACRAMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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### **Limit of Gatherings**

Gov. Brown has limited gatherings of more than 25 people in the state of Oregon. The President and the CDC have recommended that gatherings should be of no more than 10 people. At this time the Archdiocese of Portland also recommends limiting gatherings to 10 people. Needless to say, anyone who is sick or feeling unwell should remain at home.

### **Public Masses**

The Archbishop has suspended all public Masses. A public Mass is defined as a Mass with the faithful in attendance which was regularly scheduled in the parish either at the weekend or during the week.

### **Private or Closed Masses**

All priests are encouraged to celebrate a Mass each day, not however, at the time of the regularly scheduled parish Masses. These Masses can have; servers, readers, sacristans, etc.. The recommended limit of 10 people should be observed.

### **Funerals**

Funeral Masses can be celebrated. It is recommended that only very close family attend within the limit of 10, in any case the limit of 25 must not be exceeded. A “Memorial Mass” [Mass for the Dead] be celebrated later for other family and friends. It is also recommended that the Mass not be publicized so that other faithful do not attend and exceed the limit.

### **Weddings**

Weddings can be celebrated within the recommended limit of 10 people, in any case the limit of 25 must not be exceeded. It is suspected that most couples will want to postpone their wedding. Parishes are asked to be flexible in rescheduling.

## **Confessions**

Most parishes are keeping their regular confession schedules as usually they do not attract more than 10 people at any one time. Penance Services that would attract a large number of the faithful should be cancelled.

## **Chrism Mass**

Archbishop Sample will celebrate the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral and it will be livestreamed. Some priests will be invited to concelebrate representing the Archdiocesan presbyterate. This will not be open to the faithful. The Holy Oils should be ordered as usual and they will be distributed to each parish.

## **Holy Week**

The various Liturgies of Holy Week will be celebrated without the faithful at the Cathedral by the Archbishop and livestreamed. Each parish should celebrate the Holy Week Liturgies fully according to the Rites contained in the Roman Missal even in the absence of the faithful. Again readers, servers and other necessary ministers may be present within the limit. Parishes are encouraged to livestream these liturgies.

## **Sunday Mass from the Cathedral**

Archbishop Sample will celebrate a livestreamed Mass from St. Mary's Cathedral on Sundays at 11:00am. This Mass will be in private.

## **Open Churches**

All parishes are asked to keep their churches open for prayer during this time for at least some fixed period of time each day. The faithful are encouraged to make visits during these times.

## **Eucharistic Adoration**

Periods of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament are encouraged, again within the recommended 10 person limit and observing all social distancing norms.

## **RCIA**

The entire Rite of Christian Initiation is arranged so that the sacraments will be celebrated during the Easter Vigil, however because of serious pastoral needs another time can be selected. When the Rite of Christian Initiation occurs at a different point of the liturgical year, the structure of the entire Rite remains the same. [RCIA 26] Since performing these rites during the Easter Vigil would in most cases gather a crowd over

the 25 person limit, pastors are asked to reschedule the Rites when regular public Masses are allowed. The appropriate delegations will transfer.

### **'Communion Services'**

Communion Services are not allowed as they would attract crowds just as a public Mass would.

### **Holy Communion to the Homebound**

Holy Communion visits to the homebound should be suspended due to the health risks to some of our most vulnerable parishioners. Parishes should establish regular 'telephone visits' to those who are homebound to help them stay prayerfully connected to their parish.

### **Anointing of the Sick and Viaticum**

Priests are asked to respond generously to those who are seriously ill and request the anointing and viaticum. The directions of all medical facilities should be strictly followed.

### **Spiritual Communion**

The faithful are encouraged to make a Spiritual Communion on a regular basis during this time when participation at Holy Mass is impossible.

"When you do not receive communion and you do not attend Mass, you can make a spiritual communion, which is a most beneficial practice; by it the love of God will be greatly impressed on you". – St. Teresa of Jesus

### **Office of Divine Worship**

The Office of Divine Worship is always available to assist our priests and parishes with any liturgical or sacramental questions.

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