



SUMMARY OF LITURGICAL AND SACRAMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC [25 MARCH 2020]

Limit of Gatherings

In light of the Governor's Executive Order 20-12 in which a "Stay at Home" order has been declared, the Archdiocese advises that parishes remind the faithful to remain at home "to the maximum extent possible".

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 urged to celebrate a Mass each day, only essential ministers should be in attendance. These Masses can be livestreamed observing social distancing requirements.

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

Parishes should keep regular confession times requiring social distancing and observing the limits of numbers gathered set by the state. If the sacrament is celebrated outside of a traditional confessional the confidentiality of the Sacrament is to be strictly maintained at all times.

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, so that for their spiritual necessity the faithful can make prayerful visits. Again, the state limits and social distancing requirements must be observed.

'Communion Services'

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

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

Eucharistic Adoration

Periods of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament are encouraged observing social distancing. However, Adoration Chapels that cannot observe social distancing

requirements should be closed and these periods of adoration should be made in the main church.

Social Distancing and Sanitation

Parishes are recommended to post signs reminding people about social distancing requirements when visiting churches. Hand sanitizer should be available for people to cleanse their hands when entering churches. Also sanitizing wipes could be placed in confessionals, so that the penitent's side made be cleansed upon leaving the confessional.

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

Msgr. Gerard O'Connor – 503 233 8350 – goconnor@archdpdx.org
Anne Marie Van Dyke – 503 233 8321 – amvandyke@archdpdx.org