

Diocese of Trenton



UPDATED AND APPROVED: SEPTEMBER 11, 2020

**Liturgical-Pastoral Directives in a Time of Pandemic
Limited Public Celebration of the Mass and Sacraments in Church**

THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

In addition to Nuptial ceremonies, Nuptial Masses and may now be celebrated in church, as determined by the pastor in light of the particular parish's circumstances.

Number of persons in attendance should be limited to one-third of the church's capacity, as with all other Masses.

Celebrants are strongly encouraged to keep the liturgies and homilies brief.

All present must wear masks (except bride and groom).

Social distancing is to be observed throughout the celebration.

Worship aids or other booklets, hymnals, papers and programs are not to be distributed/used in church.

Greeting at the doors is prohibited.

Celebrant will stand at least six feet from the couple, e.g. on the other side of altar.

Wedding rings should be held by the groom only.

The sign of peace and any physical contact between participants, except the bride and groom, is prohibited.

The inclusion of particular or ethnic customs that might jeopardize social distancing should be discouraged but may be determined by the celebrant.

Any receiving line is prohibited; participants should exit the church immediately after the ceremony.

The celebrant should devise a plan for an orderly exit from church, e.g. pew by pew, perhaps using the same plan as at public “in Church” Sunday Masses.

Group photographs in church after the ceremony are prohibited.

Live-streaming of the ceremony is permitted and encouraged.