



*Go Make Disciples*

ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY

## **Mass and Ministry Mandates and Guidelines Updated and Consolidated**

Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

September 10, 2020

### Guiding Principles

1. **Subsidiarity:** In applying these guidelines pastors and their staffs are encouraged to adapt them to their unique circumstances and local conditions.
2. **Charity:** Out of concern for our vulnerable brothers and sisters, [CDC guidelines](#), including mask wearing, social distancing and personal hygiene ought to be the norm where possible.

### Mass

1. Cloth face coverings must be worn by congregants over the age of 6 and servers except when receiving communion.
2. Cloth face coverings must be worn by those distributing communion.
3. Attendance at Mass can be increased to 50% or more capacity as long as social distancing between households is maintained in the pews.

### In-Person Faith Formation and Other Ministries

1. Cloth face coverings must be worn by all participants over the age of 6 except where:
  - a. The space allows for great social distancing (e.g., five people at a Bible study in a room that holds 25 people) upon agreement of all the participants;
  - b. The unique circumstances of a program (e.g., tightly knit group of families getting together for catechesis) allow for greater flexibility upon agreement of all the participants;
  - c. The activity (e.g., eating or sports) makes mask wearing impossible.
2. Social distancing should be observed to the extent possible.
3. COVID-19 waivers must be obtained by all participants of in-person faith formation and other parish ministry. This is a sample [waiver](#).

### Receptions and Social Gatherings

1. Large parish-wide social gatherings should continue to be avoided for the time being.
2. Smaller social gatherings/receptions may be held with pastor approval where:
  - a. Attendance is limited to 50% or less of fire code capacity for the given room or gathering space;
  - b. Cloth face coverings are worn by all participants over the age of 6 to the extent possible;
  - c. Social distancing is observed to the extent possible;
  - d. [Waivers](#) are signed by attendees.

Since COVID-19 began threatening Oklahoma in March 2020, the archdiocese has issued various mandates, updates and guidelines, including:

[Timeline and Procedures for Resumption of Public Mass](#) (5/6)  
[Cronología y Procedimientos para la Reanudación de las Misas Públicas y Vida Sacramental](#)

[Timeline and Procedures for Resumption of Ministry Activity](#) (5/22)  
[Cronología y Procedimientos para la Reanudación](#)

[Archdiocese Encourages further COVID precautions](#) (7/2)

[Mask Requirement](#) (7/9)  
[Carta a los fieles: requisito de máscara vigente a partir del 11 de julio](#)

[Fall 2020 Faith Formation: Guidelines](#) (Updated 9/10)  
(Spanish coming soon)

Archbishop's Column: [Is it time to return to Sunday Mass?](#) (8/26)  
[¿Es hora de regresar a la misa dominical?](#)

These documents contain more specific guidance and remain relevant and important sources of information. These earlier documents, however, are superseded by this document to the extent that they are inconsistent with the mandates and guidelines set forth here.