



ARCHDIOCESE OF NASSAU

Office of the Archbishop

December 7, 2020

Beloved in Christ,

Updates regarding Religious Worship (December 2020)

We are still in the midst of a global pandemic. Although the Competent Authority has lifted some of the restrictions related to religious worship, there are still protocols which we, as a faith community, must follow and adhere to in conformity with the law and for each other's safety.

I wish to thank you for the manner in which you have responded to this health crisis and I wish to encourage you to continue observing the restrictions and protocols for your safety.

For the benefit and safety of all Parishioners and Clergy, I wish to emphasize the following:

1. Clergy and Parishioners are required to wear a face masks in and around the church during worship.
2. The faithful are to keep their masks on at all times.
3. Lectors may remove their mask when proclaiming the Word and replace it immediately afterwards.
4. The presider at worship may remove his face mask for the prayers and blessing at the altar inclusive of the Eucharistic Prayer but must replace it immediately afterwards.
5. All Eucharistic Ministers (Clergy and Lay) must wear masks for the distribution of Communion and practice the necessary hand-sanitizing protocol.
6. Other ministers at the altar should wear their masks at all times while maintaining physical distance.
7. **There are to be no choirs at this time.** A cantor can lead the singing. The emphasis should be on instrumental music.
8. The cantor may remove the face mask while singing but replace it immediately afterwards.
9. The ambo and microphone should be sanitized after use by the lector, cantor and homilist.

10. When recording a liturgy for streaming later should choir members be used in lieu of a congregation, their masks should remain in place at all times during the recording.

I wish all to view two videos on 'How to proceed in a safe manner after receiving Communion'. One video is from a local parish. The second is from abroad. They are posted on our Archdiocesan Facebook page.

We are very grateful that we are able to resume the Saturday Evening Liturgy in parishes that offer that Mass. We are pleased to note also, that we can celebrate Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

One last note, given the current pandemic, the Red Mass for January 2021, is cancelled.

Let us continue to pray for our country, our families and our world during these difficult times. Let us continue to look after each other, especially the most vulnerable among us.

Devotedly yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick C. Pinder". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Most Reverend Patrick C. Pinder, S.T.D., C.M.G.
Archbishop of Nassau