

Checklist/Summary for Celebrating Liturgies While Facing COVID-19

Updated: April 28, 2020

Taking proper precautions to protect others is a Christian obligation of both justice and charity. The virus that causes COVID-19 is still circulating in our communities. We must continue to observe practices that protect everyone, including those who are most vulnerable. The following is a summary of the *minimum* required protocols as we resume the public celebration of liturgies.

The **priest** must:

- Limit attendance based on the requirements of 6-foot separation and seating only every-other pew.
- Develop a fair and charitable system in the parish for ensuring this limit is observed.
- Ensure that the faithful observe social distancing (at least 6-feet between households).
- Ensure procedures are in place to disinfect common surfaces (pews, door handles, restrooms, etc.) after every liturgy.

The **faithful** must:

- Not come to church if they are sick or have any symptoms of possible COVID-19.
- Remain at home if they are vulnerable to COVID-19 due to age (65+) or condition.
- Strongly consider wearing a mask.
- Wash hands or use hand sanitizer before entering the church and after touching common surfaces.
- Maintain at least a 6-foot separation in the pews, in the Communion procession, and when arriving for and leaving Mass.
- Avoid touching common surfaces like pews, door handles, and restrooms.

The **ministers of Communion** must:

- Strongly consider wearing a mask.
- Wash hands or use hand sanitizer before and after distributing Communion.
- Immediately STOP distributing Communion and wash hands or use hand sanitizer if they come into physical contact with a communicant.

The **ushers** must:

- Strongly consider wearing a mask.
- Wear gloves during the collection and when touching common surfaces.
- Assist the faithful in maintaining at least a 6-foot separation in the pews, in the Communion procession, and when arriving for and leaving Mass.

The following **temporary liturgical norms** are in place:

- No hymnals or missalettes are to be in the pews. Single-use worship aides are acceptable.
- The Sign of Peace is to be exchanged without physical contact.
- As a matter of public health, it is *strongly recommended* that Communion be received in the hand. This is necessary because of what we know about how the coronavirus is spread.