



September 16, 2021

Dear Father,

With this memorandum, we are updating our guidelines pertaining to liturgical celebrations in light of yesterday's announcement of the State of Public Health Emergency by the Government of Alberta in order to protect the health system and slow the spread of Covid-19.

We ask that in all parishes throughout the Diocese of St. Paul:

1. All Alberta Health and government regulations must continue to be observed. Exemptions cited by the government will be followed.
2. Dispensation of the faithful from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains in place until decreed otherwise by the Bishop. The Sunday Mass at 11:00 a.m. will continue to be live-streamed from the St. Paul Cathedral.

As of September 16, 2021, for all Masses:

- The capacity is limited to 1/3 of the fire code occupancy.
- Mask use is required through the entirety of the celebration.
  - o Priests, deacons, and lectors must always wear their mask unless they are speaking or proclaiming. The Psalm will be read by a lector.
- A physical distance of 2 meters between households must be maintained.
- The sanitizing of pews and other spaces will resume.
- Where necessary, parishes may need to resume the registration for Mass.
- Screening of all attendees is not necessary at this time. However, you will need to monitor the number of attendees entering your parish church.
- The priests will prepare what they need for Mass.
- There will be no altar servers required so as to minimize the risk of exposure and to maintain physical distancing.
- Processions are to be omitted.
- No presentation of the gifts is to be made.
- Collections may be taken during Mass **or you may have baskets or boxes for people to leave their donation upon entering the church.**
- **The Holy Water Fonts are to be left empty.**
- Only one cantor/soloist and one musician are allowed.
- **Congregational singing is not permitted at this time.**
- Singing by the cantor/soloist is limited to the following:
  - o Entrance
  - o Preparation of the Altar



Amended September 17, 2021

- Communion
- Recessional
  
- Distribution of Holy Communion
  - Priests, deacons, and Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion must wear their mask during the distribution of Holy Communion.
  - **Once the communicants have received the consecrated host on their hand, they are to step aside, lift/remove their mask, consume the host, and put their mask back on before returning to their pews.**
  - Communion continues to be given under one species – the Consecrated Host.
  - Communion on the tongue continues to be available.

### **Liturgy of Baptism**

The liturgy of Baptism will be outside Mass. Each baptismal celebration should be limited to the one child (or children) of the family/household, not exceeding the 1/3 capacity of the fire code occupancy.

### **Funerals and weddings (effective September 20, 2021)**

The limit for weddings and funerals liturgies is now at 50 people or 50% of the fire code occupancy, whichever is less. This number does not include the officiant, the cantor/musician, the staff or organizers who are not considered invited guests.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached at [bishopoffice@dostp.ca](mailto:bishopoffice@dostp.ca).

With prayers in our Good Shepherd,

*+ Paul Terrio*  
†Bishop Paul Terrio