

## Covid-19 Directives – April 28, 2020

The following guidelines were compiled in consultation with the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Lake Charles and a board of advising physicians. They are effective beginning on Friday, May 1, 2020.

1. The dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation remains in effect for the faithful of the Diocese of Lake Charles (priests excluded).
2. Pastors are to resume a regular schedule of parish Masses.
  - a. Opportunities for the reception of Holy Communion may be added.
3. Only those who are scheduled in advance to attend a given Mass may be present.
  - a. Attendees may be scheduled via internet (e.g. SignUpGenius app) or phone or some other form of sign-up that does not involve physical contact.
  - b. Visitors cannot be prevented from signing up.
  - c. Ushers are to have lists of those scheduled to attend and permit entry accordingly.
  - d. If there are available seats at a given Mass, walk-ins should be permitted entry.
  - e. The sick, those suspected of being sick, and those at-risk should not attend Mass.
  - f. A Mass specifically for the elderly in good health is recommended.
4. 25% of the church's maximum occupancy may gather for a liturgy (At a future date, this percentage may be adjusted).
  - a. This calculation includes the celebrant and assisting ministers (e.g. deacon, server).
  - b. Available seats should be designated; seats may be assigned.
5. Those attending Mass should:
  - a. remain six feet apart (including during Communion distribution and departure)
  - b. wear face masks, except when receiving the host.
6. The following are not permitted at liturgies:
  - a. singing (a cantor and an instrumentalist permitted)
  - b. exchange of the sign of peace
  - c. Communion under both species
  - d. missalettes (should be removed)
7. Containers used for collections should not be touched by parishioners.
8. Holy water fonts are to be emptied (Pastors may provide small bottles of holy water.)
9. The Church (particularly areas touched by parishioners) is to be disinfected after each use.
10. It is strongly encouraged that communion be distributed in the manner described below without prejudice to approved ways in the General Instruction of Roman Missal Third Edition. The priest following his own reception of Holy Communion:
  - a. puts on a face mask
  - b. washes his hands in a manner visible to congregants
  - c. takes an edge of the Host
  - d. touches the opposite edge of the Host to the communicant's hand
  - e. releases the Host

In any manner of distribution, physical contact between the priest and the communicant is not to take place.

11. Extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion are not to distribute Holy Communion.
12. Holy Communion may be given to the homebound upon request. In addition to the stipulations of number 10 above, every effort should be made to give Holy Communion outside (e.g. on a porch or patio).
13. Every consideration is to be given for the care of those who are isolated. The homebound, those who live alone, and those with pre-existing health conditions most especially deserve the concern and care of the Church. Pastors and Parochial Vicars are encouraged to telephone such persons on a regular basis and assure them of the Church's closeness to them.
14. Each pastor must begin planning for first Holy Communion and for reception into the Church of those individuals who were preparing for such before the suspension of public liturgies. All plans should, for the time being, utilize the guidelines contained herein.
15. The guidelines of March 20, 2020, regarding the Sacrament of Reconciliation remain in effect.
16. Baptisms, Confirmations, Funerals and Weddings may be conducted using the norms contained herein.
17. Pastors are to disseminate the "Covid-19 Directive – Flyer for the Faithful."

For questions or clarifications, please consult the Dean of your respective Deanery.