

From: Brommer, Fr. Joshua, The Cathedral Parish of St Patrick, Harrisburg/Diocesan Center, Harrisburg
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 8:44 AM
Subject: Revised Norms for Sacred Worship in time of COVID-19 Pandemic
Attachments: Phases for Opening GREEN PHASE Revised AUGUST 20 2020.pdf

Dear Friends,

Several questions have come to my office regarding the COVID-19 precautionary protocols in place for the parishes and institutions within the Diocese of Harrisburg. After conferring with Bishop Gainer, I would like to restate that the precautions in place for the Green Phase are still in place and all parishes and institutions are expected follow them as directed. This is to ensure that we continue to provide safe environments for our parishioners as well as clergy. Attached is the latest revision of those directives.

No parish is permitted to alter the protocol without permission from the Office for Divine Worship. In some circumstances, individual parishes have been given certain exemptions based on local needs. Such exemptions are not universally applied. Whenever the individual request seemed to be easily applied to all parishes, I have adjusted the directives. All requests for exceptions to the rules gain be made through an email directed to me.

Regarding those questions that have been directed to the Office for Divine Worship, permit me to clarify the following:

- All parishes must continue to practice social distancing, ensured by delineation of pews.
- Parishes should not restore the practice of congregational singing nor are choirs permitted in any parish of the Diocese. The studies are consistently indicating that singing greatly increases the droplets and aerosolization of saliva that potentially contains the virus. The force of singing allows for these droplets to enter the air even through masks. Choirs are not safe - and, to be clear, a choir is defined in this circumstance as any assembly of singers greater than 2 or 3. Sung acclamations may be done by a cantor who is properly distanced from the assembly and safely apart from the organist/musician.
- Holy Communion may be restored to its proper place within Mass.
- Masks are not required for outdoor celebrations provided all individuals/families are properly distanced.
- When albs or cassocks & surplices are shared by several individuals they may not be used. When they can be assigned for the use of one person or if they are own by a single person, they may be used again for altar servers, lectors, extraordinary ministers, and sacristans.
- Now that we are resuming some of the opportunities that involve concelebration, please review the instructions for concelebration found in Appendix 7.
- The principal celebrant does not need to wear a mask while at the altar for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Generally, while at the altar, the celebrant is distanced sufficiently from the assembly. All vessels, except the

principal celebrant's chalice and paten, should be covered throughout the entirety of the Eucharistic Prayer (even through the epiclesis and consecration). This covering may be a lid or a pall.

- These directives apply to school Masses in all elementary and high schools throughout the diocese.

Thanks for your attention to these matters as we persevere into the fall and continue to do our best.

In His Heart,
Father Brommer

Fr. Joshua R Brommer
Pastor & Rector Cathedral Parish of Saint Patrick
Director of the Office for Divine Worship