

MAY 19
WEBINAR



WHEN
CAN WE
START
SUNDAY
MASSES?

- When you are ready to meet all of the standards
- Saturday, May 23, with the permission of the Regional Bishop or Episcopal Vicar
- Saturday, May 30 for all parishes who are able to meet the standards
- In some municipalities, different dates may be required

Parishes should feel no obligation or pressure to start Masses before they are ready.

- The emergency dispensation from the Sunday Mass obligation remains in place
- Anyone who is in a vulnerable health situation due to age or other illnesses should remain at home
- Parishes should continue to stream Masses to take care of people who are unable or unready to attend



WHO
SHOULD
ATTEND
MASS?

HOW MANY PEOPLE CAN ATTEND

- Not more than 40% of your posted capacity
- Not more than can fit into your church, based on social distancing.
- The second number is likely much lower than than the first



HOW DO
WE LIMIT
HOW MANY
PEOPLE
ATTEND

- Registration software
- Trained volunteers counting as people come in

WHAT IF WE LEARN THAT A
PERSON WHO HAS COME TO
MASS THEN TESTS POSITIVE
FOR COVID-19?

- If a parish learns that a person who has come to Mass has tested positive for COVID-19, it must notify the Local Board of Health (LBOH) in the city or town in which the church is located and assist the LBOH as reasonably requested to trace likely contacts and advise contacts to isolate and self-quarantine.

HOW DO WE GET READY?

- Form a strong, cautious, competent committee to guide your preparations
- Communicate strongly with your parish, even if it is just communicating that you are working on it.
- Identify volunteers and start to train them
- Start to mark off spaces in the church where people can sit
- Figure out where signs should go
- Mark off areas where people may be standing in line with six foot increments

- Arrows on the floor to direct traffic
- Remove all hymnals and missalettes from the church
- Empty holy water fonts, and consider covering them in some respectful way
- Clean the church in keeping with the standards in the document that will go out from Risk Management



HOW DO
WE GET
READY?

WHERE SHOULD MASSES BE HELD?

- In multiple church parishes or collaboratives, the pastor may well decide that he wants to focus on one church for a time, in order to increase the ability to focus on doing it safely in one place.



WHAT ABOUT THE MASS SCHEDULE?

- There has to be enough time between Masses for people to enter and leave the church in an orderly and careful way.
- There has to be enough time to clean the churches between Masses.

WHAT ABOUT MASKS?

- Parishioners should wear masks, except:
 - Children under age two should not wear masks
 - Children between age two and age five should wear masks at the parents' discretion
 - Anyone who has some medical reason not to wear a mask can exempt themselves and does not need to provide documentation
- Priests, deacons, lectors, and cantors need not wear masks in the sanctuary, but must observe social distancing
- Those distributing communion must wear masks

WHAT ABOUT DURING MASS?

- No gatherings before or after Mass
- No processions
- No altar servers
- No choirs
- No congregational singing
- Any priest or other minister who has a respiratory infection in any way should not participate

WHAT ABOUT DURING MASS?

- No passing of the basket for the offertory. Baskets can be at the entrance.
- No holding of hands during the Our Father
- No Sign of Peace

- Parishioners at Mass may well decide not to receive Communion – they should be made to feel comfortable with that decision
- There will be no distribution of the Precious Blood
- The communicant and the priest both need to be wearing masks (with the exceptions above noted)
- Neither the priest nor the communicants should wear gloves
- The priest will put the consecrated Host in the communicant's outstretched hand, avoiding touching if possible
- If contact accidentally happens, the priest will sanitize his hands



THE
DISTRIBUTION
OF HOLY
COMMUNION

WHEN CAN DAILY MASSES RESUME?

- **Monday, May 25**, if a parish is ready – but a parish should feel free to choose a later date if that would work better for them
- All of the same standards that apply to Sunday Mass apply here

WHEN CAN FUNERALS RESUME?

- **Monday, May 25**
- All of the same standards, including social distancing, and the wearing of masks, apply.
- Among the principal mourners, only members of the same household can sit close together.



OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS

- There will be an FAQ from this webinar that will go out probably tomorrow, as well as the recording of it.
- The restart committee continues to meet regularly, to address outstanding questions as they arise.
- There will likely be another webinar next week, to continue to discuss these topics.
- We are aware that there are lots of questions around things like First Communion, Confirmations, graduations and baccalaureate Masses, wake services in the Funeral Home, the counting of money. We will work on these questions and get answers and recommendations distributed as quickly as possible.

REACH OUT TO YOUR
REGIONAL
EVANGELIZATION
CONSULTANT

- **Merrimack Region:**
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