

Diocesan Directives
Updated October 8, 2020

- Bishop Kopacz continues to dispense the faithful from the Sunday Obligation to participate in Mass until further notice.

- Protocols you are using for weekday and Sunday Masses also apply to all other liturgies and rites such as Baptisms, First Communions, Confirmations, Weddings, Funerals, etc.
 - Masks are required to be worn by all over the age of two;
 - Social Distancing is required – all must be six feet apart (if they live in same household, they may sit in the same pew);
 - Pews and restrooms must be sanitized after each celebration;
 - Hand sanitizer and masks should be made available to those who don't have them;
 - Group photos should be socially distanced, and masks should be worn;
 - No receptions should be held after or before the celebration.
 - Rehearsal dinners should not be held on parish property. Clergy should be cautious in attending such events.

- Home Masses: At this time, Masses may not be celebrated in private homes or properties of parishioners. This places everyone at risk.

- Holy Communion is still to be distributed in the hand only.

- Bishop Kopacz has delegated individual pastors to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation for the remainder of 2020.
 - As mentioned above, all protocols apply to these celebrations – masks, social-distancing, sanitizing;
 - The use of cotton balls or gloves to anoint each candidate is approved by the Holy See for this unique situation;

- There should be no reception afterwards.
- Choir and Ensemble singing and practices are suspended until further notice.
 - the use of a cantor to sing antiphons or hymns is encouraged rather than parishioners trying to sing through masks. Instrumental processions instead of hymns are encouraged, especially at the distribution of communion and the recessional;
 - Mass parts normally sung could be recited by congregation.
- Live streaming of Mass may continue. Any music broadcast that is not in the public domain must have a copyright license and must be reported to the copyright holder. There is a waiver for broadcasting Scripture until the end of the year, so no copyright license is needed for broadcasting the readings at this time.
- Live streaming to overflow crowds in parish centers or gyms on parish campuses though not ideal for participation will be allowed during this time.
- Social distancing at parish gatherings other than liturgies, such as Knights of Columbus, ladies club, AA groups, adult Bible study group, etc., should follow state health recommendations and state and local ordinances.
 - Outdoor gatherings in lieu of indoor gatherings are encouraged, especially in locations with smaller parish centers
- Overnight events or trips are suspended until further notice.
- Long trips or mission trips for parish groups are suspended until further notice.

These directives above may not encompass every minute detail. Please continue to use common sense.

Stay safe and be vigilant!