



UPDATED GUIDANCE FOR IN-PERSON GATHERINGS FOR THE DIOCESE OF MISSOURI

MAY 13, 2020, FRANCIS PERKINS, PUBLIC SERVANT AND PROPHETIC WITNESS, 1965

UPDATED HEALTH CHARACTERISTICS

- A sustained reduction in cases for at least 14 days.
- Hospitals are safely able to treat all patients requiring inpatient care.
- The city/county/state is testing all people with COVID-19 symptoms.
- Able to conduct active monitoring of confirmed cases and their contacts.
 - Contact tracing is possible and readily available.
 - A record of in-person attendees at worship services is kept.

CHURCH PROTOCOLS AFTER JUNE 1, 2020

- Church offices may open in spaces large enough for physical distancing.
- Smaller churches may worship in spaces large enough for physical distancing.
- Scaleable worship 10, 50, 100—in virtual groups and in-person groups, or in spaces large enough for physical distancing.
- Continued virtual worship opportunities.
- In-person pastoral visits resume to low risk parishioners.
- Practice health safety protocols around masks and cleaning.
- Outbreaks in virus will mean returning to suspension of in-person gatherings for 14 days.

CELEBRATIONS OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST MUST CONFORM TO THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:

- Clergy must wash their hands with soap and water before services and use hand sanitizer visibly before distributing communion. If a clergy person or parishioner feels sick or has any symptoms, they should remain at home.
- We strongly advise against using the common cup. Though it may seem counterintuitive, intinction is not a safer choice. Please remember that receiving in one kind (bread or wafer only) is full participation in the Eucharist and congregations may consider making provision for distribution without the use of a common cup.
- Singing and the use of choirs are prohibited at this time. Soloists at a safe distance may offer music during worship.
 - Playing the tune of hymns and reciting the words is encouraged.

GUIDELINES FOR WORSHIP FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDING BISHOP:

- “Drive-thru” Eucharist is prohibited.
- “Virtual communion” in which a minister “blesses” bread and wine through a phone or online connection is prohibited.
- Graveside funerals of ten people or fewer are permitted, while following physical distancing and mask guidelines
- Outdoor weddings of ten people or fewer are permitted, while following physical distancing and mask guidelines