

September 11, 2020

Pastors/Priests/Business Managers/Liturgists:

Please be advised of the immediate changes/updates to the previously communicated diocesan liturgical directives.

- Ushers wearing masks and most preferably gloved [if no gloves; handles MUST be sanitized/disinfected after each single usage] also MAY use long-handled baskets to receive the collection contributions instead of the placement of basket(s) near the sanctuary and/or exit doors. The contributions collected by the ushers, however, are not to be brought to the sanctuary nor left around the altar, but immediately secured in a safe depository. The passing of baskets from person-to-person continues to be forbidden at this time.
- Fathers are reminded that sick calls are encouraged for celebration of Anointing of the Sick and/or home visits, communion calls provided that all safety directives and previously communicated protocols are followed. There have been occasional issues with particular hospitals for the Anointing of covid-19 patients in ICU wings. Fr. Charles Rowe continues to serve as a ready liaison for our priests to assist, intervene to the best of our ability, with hospital personnel in these situations.
- Mask usage continues to be required for entry, moving within and exiting our parish churches. Following the local city/county health directives remains vitally important and should be followed. For those counties requiring everyone indoors to be masked at all times to appropriately worship within our sacred liturgies, Bishop Johnston has directed that the priest presider is not masked at the altar for the Eucharistic Prayer while maintaining six feet physical distancing from deacon and servers; the reader and the cantor are not masked during their ritual action either with the same distancing requirements. A reminder, too, that an additional corporal, distant to the one immediately in front of the presider with his singular host and personal chalice, is to be used for any ciboria of hosts to be consecrated for distribution to the Christian faithful (and a separate chalice for any concelebrant[s]).
- At the discretion of the pastor, singing in a lower volume, low intensity while wearing a mask by the assembly may be permitted. Masks are required to be worn by everyone who engages in singing except, as noted above, the cantor.
- Bulletins: Upon exiting, and only upon exiting, outside the doors (severe weather permitting 'inside' doorway) a masked and gloved usher MAY distribute a parish bulletin (or other booklet like the soon to be distributed Pastoral Letter on 'Keeping the Lord's Day' from Bishop Johnston).
- A particular permission has also been extended to the Knights of Columbus annual Tootsie Roll Drive. At a pastor's discretion, this may occur with the Knight (or their representatives) wearing a mask AND gloves freely distributing Tootsie Rolls to those who present themselves. Collection of financial contributions are to be in a much larger basket instead of the small yellow cans with small metal lids that would engage too much possible contagion touch.