



Sacramental Guidelines for Reopening

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

These guidelines for the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in a church reflect updated guidance by government officials, healthcare professionals and church authorities.

These guidelines are based on current requirements for groups of 10 worshippers or less in the church at any time, exclusive of all ministers.

Parishes or pastors may **not** alter the number of allowed worshippers, social distancing, face covering, or sanitizing guidelines contained here.

Preparation

1. When announcing to the parish a time of exposition the following should be clearly stated to the faithful to set expectations:
 - a. No more than 10 worshippers will be allowed into the church at any given time. This includes the initial opening service and closing benediction.
 - b. If other parishioners are waiting, worshippers should limit their prayer time to 20 minutes. A greeter may respectfully remind them after 20 minutes that others are waiting and ask them to exit after the blessing by the priest or deacon.
 - c. Anyone with illness or noticeable symptoms will be respectfully asked not to enter the church at this time.
 - d. Masks should be worn for the entire time the faithful and guests are in the church. Per IDPH and CDC guidelines, those with breathing difficulties can be exempted from this requirement, but those individuals must observe the strictest of social distancing from anyone not living in their domicile.
 - e. Worshippers may not sit together unless they are domiciled together.
 - f. A greeter will guide worshippers to seating that will be clearly marked.
 - g. Once seated, worshippers are asked not to change seats or move around the church.
2. The total number of adorers allowed in the church is not to exceed 10.
3. Exposition should take place in the main church and not a side chapel, even one dedicated to Adoration because of social distancing and spacing requirements.
4. Pews/chairs should be visibly marked as to where participants can sit, maintaining social distance of at least six feet. Staggered seating is best. Keep in mind that six feet must be maintained in front, back and on either side of each worshipper. Family units who are domiciled together may sit together OR the parish may designate certain pews as “family pews.”

5. A greeter is to meet participants in the narthex or vestibule and be **on duty for the entire time of the Exposition**. The greeter's duties include:
 - Ensure that every participant is wearing a protective face mask.
 - Ensure that every participant sanitizes his/her hands before entering the church.
 - Remind worshippers that if they have a fever or are ill, they should not enter the church.
 - Ensure that each participant knows that once he/she takes a seat they are to remain in that seat for the time they are in the church.
 - Ensure that those who are waiting in line maintain proper social distance.
 - As one worshipper leaves the church the greeter will allow another person in. However, a different seating area should be used, or the greeter should wipe down the seating area before reuse by a different adorer. The greeter should wear gloves if they are wiping down seating and sanitize their hands afterwards.
6. The priest or deacon should wear a mask during the service whenever he is not speaking. This is to provide a good example and not confuse the worshippers about masking.

Exposition

1. The Blessed Sacrament is brought from the tabernacle and placed in the monstrance on the altar.
2. The priest or deacon should sanitize his hands immediately before touching the Host or the luna.
3. The priest or deacon then places incense in the censer, kneels and incenses the Holy Eucharist. The rest of the assembly kneels as well.
4. After the incensation, he returns to the chair.
5. During the adoration, the presider may proclaim one or more of the readings of the day, ensuring a period of substantial silence in between readings.
6. If appropriate, the priest or deacon may give a homily. He may remove his mask for this.

7. Time of Adoration

During the time of adoration, the priest or deacon should remain with those coming to the church for adoration or be substituted by another priest or deacon so that the people always have a minister present. As each succeeding group of 10 enter the church there should be a reading of the scripture of the day by the priest or deacon and a short homily may be given, all the while leaving time for a period of silent adoration. At no time can the Blessed Sacrament be left alone. At the end of the scheduled time for each group present for adoration, the priest or deacon can bless the assembly with the monstrance.

8. Benediction

At the end of the scheduled time for the church to be open for adoration, benediction takes place followed by the reposition of the Blessed Sacrament. For benediction the priest or deacon goes to the altar, genuflects and then kneels. Taking the censer, he incenses the Blessed Sacrament. He then stands and says the prayer. The priest or deacon then puts on the humeral veil, genuflects, and takes the monstrance. He then makes the sign of the cross with it over the people in silence. He then returns the monstrance to the altar, sanitizes his hands, genuflects and removes the luna and reposes it in the tabernacle.

Post Service

1. After the liturgy the luna should be wiped down.
2. All pews or chairs used during the time of adoration should be disinfected following the service and left to dry.
3. Masks should be disposed of and not reused.
4. Church door handles and door plates must be cleaned after all have left the church. If they have been opened, restrooms should be cleaned immediately after the service has concluded and people have left.
5. Greeter/usher should replenish any supplies as needed.