



Sacramental Guidelines for Reopening

ADOLESCENT AND ADULT CONFIRMATION

These guidelines are in effect until December 31, 2020.

Note: Each pastor and parish administrator will have received a letter delegating solely to him the faculty to confirm members of his parish's current confirmation class in as many ceremonies as may be needed until December 31, 2020. The pastor or parish administrator must have this delegation for the confirmation to take place. If you have questions about this please contact your Vicariate Office.

Note: All priests of the archdiocese with faculties have received a letter extending until December 31, 2020 for him the previously granted delegation to confirm any RCIA candidate who was to have been confirmed during the 2020 Easter Vigil.

Parishes should adapt as necessary, however, **being careful not to violate social distancing, face covering and sanitizing practices.**

Parishes or pastors may **not** alter the number of allowed worshippers (between 15 and 20 percent of total capacity of the church as determined by the parish leadership team), social distancing, face covering or sanitizing guidelines contained here.

A system of reservation should be used so that the parish team is able to manage the number of guests to allowable numbers.

Preparation

1. The floor of the church should have tape marks indicating where participants should process and stand during confirmation, observing the required social distancing from the priest and from one another. One mark should be placed in front of the priest indicating where the confirmand stands, and another six feet away, indicating where the sponsor stands.
2. The pews should be marked for seating for all participants and guests. Marks should be placed at least six feet apart indicating where individuals may sit. Further, there needs to be a six-foot distance in all directions between marked seats.
3. Masks or face coverings should be worn for the entire service by all. 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. Children under the age of two are exempt from wearing face coverings or masks.
4. A table should be set up near the sanctuary to hold supplies needed. It is recommended that the table be covered with a glass top to allow for easy cleaning and disinfecting after the liturgy.
5. The chrism should be prepared in a separate vessel. Enough cotton swabs or Q-tips – one for each person confirmed – should be prepared. Do not use oil stocks directly. Follow this directive until advised otherwise.
6. Hand sanitizer for the priest and others should be placed on the table as well.

7. All those to be confirmed should be asked to check themselves for symptoms the day of the confirmation and alert the pastor if they have become symptomatic.
8. The parish must have a sufficient number of greeters and ushers on duty to help direct and manage the flow of participants and guests entering and throughout the services.
9. A greeter(s) is to meet all at the door or in the vestibule and check that they have face coverings or masks and offer hand sanitizer to each person. The greeter(s) should also advise all that if they are ill they should not enter the church.

Rite of Confirmation

1. The priest and all in the church should don masks for the duration of the service. All participants including the priest should have sanitized their hands.
2. Priest should remind all present to please follow the precautions that are in place including keeping the mask on; sitting in designated pews at designated markers, etc.
3. For the Liturgy of the Word, the priest and other ministers may remove their masks when they are speaking.
4. After the priest concludes the Liturgy of the Word, the Rite of Confirmation begins.
5. In the procession to the priest for confirmation, candidates and their sponsors should remain six feet apart from one another at all times. Masks are still to be worn.
 - a. Sponsor should remain six feet from the confirmand, and not place a hand on the shoulder during confirmation.
6. Priest should keep mask and face shield on during the anointing because of proximity to participants.
7. For each anointing, the priest shall use a fresh cotton ball/swab. Every used cotton ball/swab is to be retained for proper disposal after the celebration (burned and ashes buried, or buried without being burned).
8. For the exchange of peace after the anointing, there should be no physical contact between the priest and the newly confirmed. A simple nod, head bow or some other simple sign is sufficient.
9. After the anointing, the newly confirmed and sponsor return to their designated pew.
10. There should be no congratulatory physical contact as they return to their places.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

1. The Liturgy of the Eucharist is to follow guidelines given for the celebration of Mass.
2. For the consecration, the ciborium(ia) containing hosts for distribution to the faithful should be placed on the side of the corporal – not directly under the priest's face – in order to avoid any contamination during the Eucharist Prayer.

Post Service Photography

The newly confirmed and guests should plan on photography being done outside the church after the service if desired.

Post Rite and Cleaning

- 1.** All pews, instruments and liturgical items used during the rite must be sanitized after the service. All of above must be completely clean and dry before reuse.
- 2.** Church door handles and plates must be cleaned after each confirmation once all have left the church.
- 3.** If unlocked and used, church restrooms should be cleaned immediately after all have left the building.
- 4.** Those cleaning the space should wear masks and gloves.
- 5.** Cotton balls/swabs with chrism should be disposed of properly. Gloves should be worn during the disposal.
- 6.** Please remember masks distributed to family and guests may not be collected and reused by the parish.
- 7.** Greeter or pastor should take an inventory of supplies after the service and replenish accordingly.