



Sacramental Guidelines for Reopening

RCIA: ADULT BAPTISMS

Where applicable these guidelines mirror the guidelines for infant baptism already published.

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

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

Preparation

1. Use of a temporary receptacle is advised. Placed in front of altar if possible.
2. The floor of the church should have tape marks around the font/receptacle indicating where participants should stand during baptism, observing the required social distancing from the priest and from one another.
3. The first or second row of pews (depending on distance from the receptacle area) should be marked for participants. Marks should be placed at least six to eight feet apart for these guests indicating where they should sit. Further, there needs to be a six-foot distance in front and behind guests if multiple pews need to be used.
4. All pews or seating in the church that may be used for additional guests must be marked for social distancing of six feet.
5. Masks must be worn by all in the church for the liturgy for the entire liturgy. 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 two years of age do not need to wear masks.
6. The receptacle must be thoroughly cleaned and wiped with bleach wipes prior to use. It must be allowed to dry before using.
7. Fresh water must be used for each individual baptism.
8. A table should be set up near the receptacle 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.
9. The chrism should be pre-dipped on a small cotton swab or Q-tips and placed on a glass plate on the table for use. Do not use oil stocks directly. Follow this directive until advised otherwise.
10. Hand sanitizer for the priest and others should be placed on the table as well.
11. All participants should be asked to check themselves for symptoms the day of the baptism and alert the pastor if they have become symptomatic.

12. Greeters should meet the participants and all worshippers outside the church or in the vestibule and offer hand sanitizer and make sure all are wearing masks. The greeter should also advise participants and all worshippers that if they are ill they should not enter the church.
13. If necessary because of the number of guests or worshippers, ushers should be available to guide individuals to seating already marked for social distancing.

Rite of Baptism (RCIA nos. 206–240)

1. The priest and participants should don masks for the duration of the service. The 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 elect and godparent should be seated in the first pew, in reserved marked places, again observing social distancing from others present. Priest can remove his mask for Liturgy of the Word.
4. After the priest concludes the Liturgy of the Word, the Rite of Baptism begins, with the elect moving forward to the receptacle and the marked places on the floor. (Godparent remains in the front pew.)

Note: Those parts of the Rite of Baptism which are particular to the Easter Vigil are omitted (the placing of the Paschal candle into the font during the blessing, the renewal of baptismal promises of the faithful, etc.).

5. Priest should keep mask and face shield on while performing the actual blessing of water through the confirmation of the neophyte because of proximity to participants.
6. After confirmation, the neophyte(s) returns to their designated pew.
7. There should be no congratulatory physical contact as they return to their places.
8. No congregational singing is allowed at this time. A cantor and accompanist can be used but both must be by 10 feet separated from other ministers and congregants.

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.
3. No congregational singing is allowed at this time. A cantor and accompanist can be used but both must be separated by 10 feet from other ministers and congregants.

Post Service Photography

The baptized individual 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 receptacles 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 baptism 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. Blessed water and cotton swabs with holy oils should be disposed of properly. Gloves should be worn during the disposal.
6. Please remember that 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.