

# QUICK GUIDE TO COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

## August 26, 2020\*\*\*

### **Masses/prayer activities**

- All parishes must follow all diocesan protocols for public worship.

*This includes:*

- Each parish must have a preparedness plan approved by the bishop before celebrating public Masses.
- Public Masses indoors must not exceed 50% of total capacity, with a maximum of 250 people (whichever is less).
- Public Masses outdoors must not exceed 250 people.
- Adoration in main body of church must follow the indoor limits listed above.
- Adoration in separate chapels is limited to 2 people.
- 24-hour (perpetual) adoration is allowed if it abides by the above regulations and a person is present.

Relevant worship-related document at <http://stcdio.org/coronavirus-update>:

- **July 31, 2020 – The Art of Reopening our Churches for Public Worship: Guidelines for WEDDINGS During COVID-19 (PDF)**
- **July 23, 2020 – AMENDED The Art of Reopening our Churches for Public Worship – Mass**

### **Food & beverages for onsite consumption at indoor and outdoor gatherings**

- Receptions and other social gatherings, including those with meals, in the church or on church grounds remain prohibited. This prohibition includes receptions/luncheons for baptisms, weddings and funerals.
- Parishes also may not rent building/hall space or other parish property to third parties for wedding or funeral receptions/luncheons at this time. Receptions/luncheons may take place at alternative, non-parish venues in the area that are prepared to host them.
- However, drive-thru and take-out service is now permitted provided that parishes outline food preparation safety provisions in their parish preparedness plans. These plans must be submitted to, and be approved by, the bishop's office. Among provisions which must be included in the plans: 1) Parishes must provide the containers for take-out service to lessen the possibility of spreading the coronavirus, 2) food service workers must wear masks, 3) physical distancing must be observed, 4) hands must be sanitized regularly, and 5) a supervisor must be designated to ensure the provisions are followed. Submit plans for approval to Colleen in the bishop's office at [chaider@gw.stcdio.org](mailto:chaider@gw.stcdio.org).
- Pre-packaged, simple snacks (no meals) and beverages may be served at parish programs involving adults, youth and children under certain conditions outlined in the document, "**August 26, 2020 — Parish/Diocesan Ministries COVID-19 Preparedness Guidance**" located online at <http://stcdio.org/coronavirus-update>.

## Parish festivals

- The pandemic, and the safety concerns it continues to generate, have unfortunately led to the cancellation of parish festivals and bazaars around the diocese. Because these safety concerns remain, parish festivals are prohibited until further notice. Parish festivals add another layer of unpredictability regarding physical distancing and sanitization challenges. The movement of attendees in festival settings is not predictable or easily controllable. Parishes are encouraged to consider alternatives to these events, such as hosting an online raffle or other online parish event, or holding them at another time when it is safe to do so.

## Parish/Diocesan Ministries Guidance

- Parishes and diocesan ministries should follow the provisions outlined in the document, “**August 26, 2020 — Parish/Diocesan Ministries COVID-19 Preparedness Guidance.**” This Guidance provides a framework in which to develop safe and responsible plans for ministries in the Diocese of Saint Cloud, including faith formation and youth ministry. This is to be used by pastors, ministry leaders and organizers and staff to ensure that efforts are safe, responsible and consistent throughout the diocese. The document can be found at <http://stcdio.org/coronavirus-update>.

## Catholic schools

- Catholic schools have developed individual COVID-19 Preparedness Plans for the 2020-2021 school year. Contact your school principal for more information.

## Questions?

Contact Fr. Robert Rolfes: [rolfes@gw.stcdio.org](mailto:rolfes@gw.stcdio.org); 320-251-2340; (cell) 320-493-4779).

*\*\*\*The coronavirus pandemic continues to evolve. Guidelines/requirements in all of these areas may change on short notice. You will be notified when they do. Please ensure you are following the latest available guidelines/requirements.*