

QUICK GUIDE TO COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

March 28, 2021***

Masses/prayer activities

- All parishes must follow all diocesan protocols for public worship (see worship-related documents listed below).

This includes:

- Each parish must have a preparedness plan approved by the bishop before celebrating public Masses.
- Adoration in separate chapels must follow the protocols for public worship.
- Congregational singing in a limited capacity that follows strict protocols, including the wearing of masks, is allowed. (see March 4 document below for guidance)

Relevant worship-related documents at www.stcdio.org/coronavirus-update. These are the most updated versions.

- **March 4, 2021 – Guidance for Palm Sunday and Paschal Triduum (PDF)**
(includes guidance for congregational singing in a limited capacity)
- **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**

Parish programs/events/meetings outside of worship

- **Parish/Diocesan Ministries COVID Guidance**

In-person gatherings and social activities are permitted at parishes in the diocese. The latest guidance and required protocols for these gatherings can be found at:

<https://stcdio.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Parish-Diocesan-Ministries-COVID-Guidance-fillable-1.22.21.pdf>.

- **Drive-thru and take-out service** is 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.

- **Festivals and similar parish celebrations** remain prohibited until further notice in the interest of health and safety. Health officials continue to recommend caution with regard to COVID-19, particularly when it comes to larger social gatherings. Parish festivals add a layer of unpredictability when it comes to physical distancing as well as risks related to food and beverage service/consumption and sanitization in such an environment.

- Funeral luncheons and wedding receptions also remain prohibited until further notice.

Catholic schools

- Catholic schools will continue to follow present evaluation models and other strict protocols to determine when in-person and periods of distance-learning are most appropriate.

Questions?

A variety of COVID-19 resources and guidance can be found at <https://stcdio.org/coronavirus-update>. Or contact Joe Towalski, diocesan communications director (jtowalski@gw.stcdio.org; 320-258-7624), who will direct questions to the appropriate place.

**** 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.*