

**July 9, 2020**

## **Directives for the Celebration of Outdoor Masses**

### **A. General Principles**

1. The Guidelines for the Resumption of the Public Celebration of the Sacrifice of the Mass remain normative for outdoor celebrations.
2. The celebration of other Sacraments, including Matrimony, in the context of Mass is to take place in the parish church or approved chapel or oratory and not in an outdoor setting.
3. The celebration of Outdoor Masses requires a serious pastoral need, the timing and planning of these Masses should reflect that pastoral need.
  - a. Outdoor Masses should be celebrated in early morning, starting no later than 10 a.m. or after 5:30 pm to avoid the heat of the day.
  - b. If the temperature exceeds 90 degrees, the celebration of Mass must take place inside of the parish church.
4. Pastors must ensure that the outdoor celebration of Mass complies with any local ordinances regarding outdoor gatherings e.g. the number of people permitted. This number may be different from county to county.
5. Contract tracing and face coverings are still required in any outdoor Mass.
6. Pastors are to communicate the necessary information and recommendations to parishioners regarding the celebration of outdoor Masses. This should include health and safety precautions e.g. long sleeves, sunscreen, for outdoor activities.

### **B. Preparing the Location**

1. The location for outdoor Masses should maintain the reverence necessary for the celebration of the Eucharist and be accessible to parishioners.
2. The celebration of outdoor Masses should take place on parish property. If this is not possible, pastors must consult the Bishop's Office for the approval of other appropriate spaces.
3. Drive in style Masses, where people sit in their cars during Mass are not permitted. Seating must be in chairs or on the ground. Appropriate physical distancing must be observed. Clearly mark areas where people are to be seated/located.
4. A clear area must be designated as the sanctuary. This area must be appropriately prepared and worthy of the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. This principle applies to the items used for Mass as well, e.g. ambo, presider's chair, altar.
5. The sanctuary area should be in clear view of those attending the Mass.
6. The Blessed Sacrament should not be reserved out of doors.
7. Pastors are to ensure that proper hygiene and sanitization procedures are in place and adequately supplied.
8. Accommodations for those with mobility limitations must be provided.
9. Tents and awnings are not to be used, except for the sanctuary area.

**C. Congregant Safety**

1. The consumption of food and drink during Mass is not permitted; however, for hydration reasons, water may be consumed during Mass.
2. The use of hats and umbrellas to provide shade are permissible. Those seated in the sanctuary area should not wear hats nor sunglasses.
3. Congregants should take reasonable precautions - face coverings, physical distancing, and hand washing/sanitizing - to protect themselves from possible infection of COVID – 19.

**D. Preparing the Liturgy**

1. The guidelines for the Public Celebration of Mass are to be followed, set up must be adapted to the outdoor location.
2. Sufficient amplification should be set up so that all may hear the spoken and sung parts of the Mass.
3. It is recommended to use patens or ciboria with lids and a pall or other suitable covering for the chalice.
4. Only the necessary number of hosts should be consecrated. A plan must be in place for the consumption of extra consecrated hosts by the ministers following Holy Communion or their reservation in the parish tabernacle.

**E. The Celebration of the Liturgy**

1. The celebration of the Mass should not be unduly prolonged.
2. Congregants may be invited to remain standing during the Eucharistic Prayer.
3. During Communion, signs and instructions must be clearly marked in order to keep the appropriate physical distancing among communicants.
4. Remind people that unnecessary gatherings are to be avoided as much as possible after the recessional. Until further notice, singing and chanting should be omitted.