

MEMORANDUM



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
of Calgary

DATE May 5, 2021

TO Priests, Deacons, and Parish Office Staff

FROM Fr. Wilbert Chin Jon

SUBJECT Expanded Restrictions - Weekday and Sunday Masses (May 5 – 26, 2021)

The Alberta government has currently put in place expanded restrictions. The Diocese of Calgary offers the following principles and liturgical guidelines to assist parishes so as to allow the faithful access to the Sacraments, particularly to the Most Holy Eucharist.

Principles

1. The dispensation of the faithful from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains in place. No one is obliged to attend Holy Mass while the dispensation is in effect. But the faithful are encouraged to pray and to have access to the Eucharist if at all possible either on weekday or Sunday Masses.
2. The resumption of the public celebration of Holy Mass since May 2020 has established two options or modes for the faithful to participate in the Mass which remain in place:
 - a. in person under the gathering restrictions set by the government and/or
 - b. online via livestreaming of Masses.
3. The liturgical guidelines are formulated in response to the Expanded Restrictions which took effect on May 5 and are projected to last at least three weeks, up to the week of May 26.
4. Within the three-week time frame are the following liturgical celebrations of Sunday.
 - a. May 9 – Sixth Sunday of Easter – coincides with the secular celebration of Mother's Day
 - b. May 16 – The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord
 - c. May 23 – The Solemnity of Pentecost
5. The Diocese of Calgary encourages the parishes to explore as much as possible reverent and dignified ways of providing the faithful access to the Holy Eucharist according to principle 2.
6. The faithful should be encouraged to see that their participation in any of the weekday Masses already serves as their observance of the Sunday Mass. On Sundays, when not attending Mass in person, the faithful are encouraged to participate in a livestream Mass or to pray the readings of the day.

Liturgical Guidelines

Weekday Mass under the Expanded Restrictions

1. Parishes are encouraged to offer daily Mass even if attendance is drastically curtailed by government restrictions.
2. Priests have the ability to provide additional weekday Masses as needed, to a maximum of two (2) Masses per priest each day.
3. Parishes can determine the best way to manage registration and contact tracing according to their particular settings or circumstances.

Sunday Mass under the Expanded Restrictions

Parishes have the following options for the attendance at Sunday Mass and the reception of Holy Communion.

1. **PROVIDING ADDITIONAL SUNDAY MASSES:** Priests have the ability to provide additional Sunday Masses as needed, to a maximum of (4) Masses per priest on Sunday. This may or may not include Sunday Masses on Saturday. This permission has already been granted by Bishop McGrattan to those who would choose to offer more Sunday Masses for the faithful.
2. **THE RITE OF DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION OUTSIDE OF SUNDAY MASS:** An alternative to the offering of multiple celebrations of Sunday Mass in parishes is the celebration of the Rite of Communion in Ordinary Circumstances, which can be found in the Pastoral Care of the Sick (blue book commonly used for anointing and viaticum) on pages 55-63 using option A. (See Appendix I for the modified version of this Rite) The two scenarios are possible for the celebration of this rite.
 - Deacons may be asked to preside at the Rite to assist the priest(s) in providing more opportunities for the faithful to receive the Holy Eucharist through this rite.
 - Priests and deacons are not to receive Holy Communion when presiding over the Rite as is the case when we bring Holy Communion to the sick. Priests must celebrate at least one Mass on Sunday. Deacons may receive Holy Communion from the priest.
 - Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion cannot preside over this Rite.

PROCEDURES FOR CELEBRATING THE RITE

- This Rite is to be offered on Sunday outside the regularly scheduled Mass times for a designated period of time. The beginning and end time should be clearly communicated to the faithful, and they do not need to pre-register.
- The Rite is designed to be brief and will take close to 10 minutes to celebrate.

- The Rite may be celebrated in the church with up to 15 attendees. The configuration of attendees (individuals/families) will determine the proper physical distance required to ensure that health and safety protocols are properly observed.
- The attendees would enter the Church through the designated entrance and aisle and proceed to the front of the sanctuary where they would remain standing throughout the duration of the liturgical rite.
- Volunteers are required to manage the people who come to the church. A volunteer is in charge of contact tracing. This should be processed outside the church.
- Care must be taken to ensure that people who wait outside the church must remain in their vehicles until it is their turn to line up. A volunteer can coordinate this step of preparation so that no more than 15 people at a time enter the church and that people do not congregate outside in the church parking lot. People not from the same household must observe proper physical distancing at all times.
- A volunteer is assigned to manage the entry door and the flow of the people entering the church.
- All who enter must use the hand sanitizer located by the door. The requirement of wearing a mask when receiving Holy Communion remains in effect.
- At least one (1) volunteer will be needed to assist inside the church during the celebration of the rite.
- A volunteer is assigned to manage the exit door and the flow of people leaving the church.
- There is no need to disinfect or sanitize the pews.
- The people leave the church in silence.

APPENDIX I

RITE OF DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION OUTSIDE OF SUNDAY MASS

INTRODUCTORY RITES

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

SPRINKLING WITH HOLY WATER

If it seems desirable, the priest/deacon may sprinkle those present with holy water. The following may be said:

Let this water call to mind our baptism into Christ, who by his death and resurrection has redeemed us.

PENITENTIAL RITE

The priest/deacon invites all present to join in the penitential rite, using these or similar words:

My brothers and sisters, to prepare ourselves for this celebration, let us call to mind our sins.

After a brief period of silence, the penitential rite continues, using the following:

You were sent to heal the contrite of heart:

Lord, have mercy

R. Lord, have mercy.

You came to call sinners:

Christ, have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us:

Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

If a priest is presiding, he says the following, if a deacon is presiding, he omits the following:

May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life.

R. Amen

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading

The Word of God is proclaimed by the priest/deacon. The following reading is used:

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

Jesus says:

“I am the living bread which has come down from heaven.

Anyone who eats this bread will live forever:

And the bread that I shall give

Is my flesh, for the life of the world.”

The Gospel of the Lord

LITURGY OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord’s Prayer

The priest/deacon introduces the Lord’s Prayer in these or similar words:

At the Saviour’s command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All say:

Our Father...

COMMUNION

The priest/deacon retrieves the ciborium from the tabernacle. He places the ciborium on the altar on top of a corporal, uncovers the ciborium, genuflects, and shows the Blessed Sacrament to those present saying:

Behold the Lamb of God,
Behold Him who takes away the sins of the world,
Blessed are those called to the Supper of the Lamb.

All who are to receive communion say:

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

The priest/deacon goes to those present and, showing the Blessed Sacrament, says once:

The Body of Christ.

All respond together: *Amen*, and then individually receive Holy Communion in silence.

After the conclusion of the rite, the priest/deacon returns to the altar, places the cover on the ciborium, genuflects and returns the ciborium to the tabernacle.

SILENT PRAYER

Then a period of silence may be observed.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The priest/deacon says the concluding prayer. The following is used:

Let us pray.

Pause for silent prayer.

O God,
Who have willed that we be partakers

in the one Bread and the one Chalice,
grant us, we pray, so to live
that, made one in Christ
we may joyfully bear fruit
for the salvation of the world.

Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

CONCLUDING RITE

Blessing

The priest/deacon blesses those present saying:

The Lord be with you

R. and with your spirit

May almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen

Go in Peace.

R. Thanks be to God.