MEMORANDUM

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE of Calgary

DATE	December 9, 2020
TO	Clergy, Parish Office Staff, Safety Coordinators
FROM	Rev. Wilbert Chin Jon
SUBJECT	New Stricter Restrictions – State of Public Health Emergency

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New stricter restrictions have been introduced by the Government of Alberta in the effort to bend the curve on the number of confirmed cases. These restrictions will take effect on Sunday, December 13, 2020.

Note:

- All parishes under the Diocese of Calgary are expected to comply with these restrictions.
- Current health and safety measures in the Diocese remain in place unless otherwise indicated by the following new restrictions which must be observed in our churches and offices.
- *Lines that are italicized are from the Government of Alberta.*

New Restrictions:

- ***Faith services are limited to 15% of fire code occupancy for in-person attendance:***
  - *Services must be held at their normal location.*
  - This occupancy limitation applies to the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the nave of the church.
  - *Physical distancing between households must be maintained*
  - *Mask use is mandatory.*
- ***All indoor and outdoor social gatherings – public and private – are prohibited.***
- ***Working from home is mandatory unless the employer requires a physical presence for operational effectiveness.***

Christmas Masses:

- Bishop McGrattan continues to grant permission for the following:
  - The earliest allowable Christmas Eve Mass is 2:00 pm.
  - The number of Christmas Masses for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day is the decision of the Pastor in collaboration with the parish team.

  - The maximum number of Masses permitted to be celebrated by a priest for
    - Christmas Eve - four (4) Masses maximum per priest
    - Christmas Day - four (4) Masses maximum per priest.

- **The use of parish halls are no longer allowed as a way to increase occupancy.**
  - *Services must be held at their normal location.*
- **The Diocese continues with its recommendation that the parish online registration for Christmas Masses be opened beginning Thursday, December 17, 2020.**
  - The maximum number of attendees in the online registration system must be revised to align with the new restriction on occupancy.
  - With the reduced occupancy capacity, parishes may now be inclined to add Christmas Masses. This decision must respect the maximum number of Masses permitted to be celebrated by each priest.
- **The Diocese will proceed with the plan of having a full-page ad in the Calgary Herald and the Sun on Saturday, December 12, 2020. The full page advertisements will list the following:**
    - The Christmas Mass times of all parishes,
    - their parish website link, and
    - that online registration will open on Thursday, December 17, 2020.
  - If you have already submitted your parish information but have changes to make to the Mass times, please email Lia at communications@calgarydiocese.ca. Please do so before 12 noon of Thursday, December 10, 2020.
  - If you have not yet submitted your parish information, please do so before 12 noon of Thursday, December 10, 2020 through https://catholicyyc.formstack.com/forms/christmas2020.

Please contact Fr. Wilbert Chin Jon at wilbert.chinjon@calgarydiocese.ca or 403-218-5529.

For more information:

Enhanced Public Health Measures
https://www.alberta.ca/enhanced-public-health-measures.aspx

Resources for the Reintroduction of the Public Celebration of Holy Mass
https://www.catholicyyc.ca/resources.html