



DIOCESE *of* GAYLORD

The new *Gatherings and Face Mask Order* goes into effect on May 15, 2021 at 9:00 am and the order will remain in effect through May 31, 2021. This document will replace all others on the diocesan website; please disregard previous notices.

Dispensation from Mass

- The Dispensation from the obligation of attending Sunday and Holy Day Mass is lifted effective the weekend of May 29-30, 2021. All who are able are invited to return to in-person worship. There are serious reasons why some may not be able to return to in-person celebrations, and they would therefore be dispensed from attending in accord with our traditional teachings (i.e. illness, family situations, impossibility, etc.).

Church Capacity

- Social distancing during liturgical celebrations is no longer required.
- Signage/rope/tape may be removed from church pews.
- Please create space in your churches, as you are able to do so, to accommodate those who wish to continue social distancing.

Vaccination Status

- Priests who are not fully vaccinated are strongly encouraged to tell their parishioners their vaccination status; this is so parishioners may fully understand why they may or may not be able to perform certain duties.
- Do not ask parishioners or staff about the vaccination status.

Non-liturgical Gathering Guidelines

- Indoor gatherings at non-residential venues are permitted with no more than 25 persons gathered.
- Outdoor gatherings at non-residential venues are permitted with 300 or fewer persons gathered.

Facial Coverings

- Face masks are to be worn by parishioners and staff who are not fully vaccinated.
- Priests who are not fully vaccinated are required to wear face masks when appropriate.
- Servers who are not fully vaccinated are to wear face masks.

Holy Water Fonts

- Holy water fonts may be filled and used by the faithful at the discretion of the pastor. The outside and lip of the font should be cleaned regularly.

General

- All hymnals and re-useable worship materials may be returned to the pews and gathering spaces.
- Bulletins may be distributed after Mass by Ushers.
- Other materials, such as CSA, may be distributed and/or made available.
- Collection baskets may be passed through the assembly if that has been the parish practice.
- Have hand sanitizer and masks available for parishioners who may want to use them upon entering the church.

Music

- The assembly may sing as is customary for the parish.
- The use of hymnals is permissible.
- Music ministry (choirs, instruments, etc.) should be reinstated.

Cleaning Requirements

- Continue cleaning of the church on regular basis.

The Holy Eucharist

- The priests, deacons, Eucharistic Ministers should say **“The Body of Christ”** to each individual Communicant. Saying it once for all is no longer acceptable.
- Those distributing Holy Communion are to sanitize their hands after they have received holy Communion from the priest and before distribution to the faithful.
- Non-vaccinated priests and Eucharistic Ministers are to wear face masks when distributing Holy Communion.

Ritual Adaptations

- The presentation of wine and hosts may continue during the Offertory.
- The Sign of Peace may be reinstated for those within the same family/household at the discretion of the priest. The deacon or priest is directed to announce at the prescribed time: **“Respecting our need to distance, let us offer the sign of peace to those in your household.”** Encourage those wishing to share the Sign of Peace with those outside of their household to use a simple visual sign, such as a nod of their head or wave.

Distribution of Holy Communion

- The distribution of the Precious Blood continues to be suspended at this time. Please make special arrangements for parishioners who may not be able to receive the host.

The Sprinkling Rite

- The Rite for the Blessing and Sprinkling of Water may take place when appropriate.

Sacraments

Infant Baptism

- May be celebrated during or outside of Mass.
- Baptism is by pouring. (No immersion.)
- With the exception of the infant/children present; non-vaccinated priests and participants are to wear masks.

Weddings

- Wedding Masses are able to continue following Mass protocols.
- Priests and wedding participants who are not vaccinated are to wear masks.
- Celebrations/luncheons are permitted in parish halls following indoor gathering guidelines of 25 or fewer attendees.

Outdoor Weddings:

- Outdoor weddings are not permitted.

Anointing of the Sick

- Anointing of the Sick is to be celebrated individually.
- Non-vaccinated priests and persons are to wear masks.
- The celebrant must practice hand hygiene before laying on of hands and after anointing.

Funerals

- Funeral Masses are able to continue following Mass protocols.
- Priests and funeral participants who are not vaccinated are to wear masks.
- Funeral luncheons are permitted in parish halls following indoor gathering guidelines of 25 or fewer attendees.

Mass Outdoors

- Outdoor masses are permitted, at the priest's discretion.
 - Masses must be held on parish grounds.

Reconciliation

- Individual confessions are to be encouraged and may continue.
- Communal penance services with individual absolution may continue.

- Non-vaccinated priests and participants are to wear masks and social distancing guidelines must be followed to the extent possible.

Wedding, Confirmation, First Holy Communion and other liturgical rehearsals

- Non-vaccinated priests and participants are to wear masks.

Devotional events

- Churches should remain open for private prayer according to their regular schedules.
- Adoration chapels may be open.

Children's Liturgy

- Remains suspended through the remainder of this academic year; will resume in the fall of 2021.

RCIA, Faith Formation and Sacramental Prep

- Non-vaccinated priests and participants are to wear masks.

Parish Hall Rentals

- Are not permitted at this time.

Parish Festivals/Carnivals/Picnics

- Outdoor parish gatherings are permitted following the Non-Liturgical Gathering Guidelines of 300 or less attendees.
- Consumption of food/beverage is permitted only while seated and only in designated areas following the guidelines in place in the *Gatherings and Face Mask Order*.

Bake Sale/Craft Fair/Public Lectures

- Activities are permitted following the Non-Liturgical Gathering Guidelines, indoors 25 or fewer, outdoors 300 or less attendees.
- Non-vaccinated persons are to wear masks.

Blood Drives & CPR Classes

- Blood drives and CPR classes are permitted.
- Non-vaccinated persons are to wear masks.

BINGO

- BINGO remains suspended until further notice in all church facilities.

Revisions will continue to be provided as Department of Health and Human Services update the Emergency Order under MCL 333.2253 – Gatherings and Face Mask Order.