

Clergy News:

July 26, 2021

Amendments to WorshipSafe document procedures for Parishes:

CHAPTER 5 & 6: BASIC RULES APPLICABLE TO ALL CHURCHES AND PARISH FACILITIES AND FOR THE CELEBRATION OF MASS:

- **Physical distancing of two metres (six feet) remains the requirement** for attendance in church and parish facilities, including seating, however, groups of people from the same household may be seated together.
- **Mask wearing remains required.** Masks should be fitted properly to the face.
- **Cleaning procedures** for pews, washrooms, confessionals, reconciliation rooms are relaxed so as to require only regular cleaning in accordance with pre-Covid-19 routines.
- Churches should be **well ventilated** when possible.
- **Bulletins, envelopes, pamphlets** and newspapers may again be distributed as per pre-COVID-19 practices.
- **Votive light stands** may be re-opened, subject to notices requiring appropriate distancing of two metres (six feet).
- **Crying Rooms and Small Chapels** may be used again as long as proper distancing is maintained. **Children's liturgy** may resume with proper distancing and supervision.
- The preference continues that **confessions** should be heard **outside** of the Confessional to allow for proper distancing, cleaning and contact tracing
- **Collections may again be taken up** using baskets in the traditional fashion. All Ushers involved in taking up collection should ensure that they wear masks while undertaking this task and use a **collection basket with a long handle** to maintain the two metres (six feet) distancing.
- **Hand Sanitizing** – It is no longer necessary for all entering a church to use hand sanitizer, though churches are encouraged to have such sanitizer on hand and available should it be asked for.
- **Altar servers** may be employed again, as long as they maintain the two metres (six feet) distance.
- **Communion** procedures are unchanged despite the lessening of restrictions in other areas. Both the person distributing communion and the communicant must be fully masked. Communion received **only in the hand** at this time.

**- ALL OTHER DIRECTIVES IN THE PANDEMIC MANUAL REMAIN IN FORCE -
FOR A FULLER EXPLANATION OF THE AMENDMENTS - PLEASE CALL THE
PASTORAL CENTRE TO DOWNLOAD THE FULLER DOCUMENT.**