



Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon
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November 26, 2020

**New Directives Regarding Coronavirus Protocols
for the Diocese of Saskatoon**

Dear Clergy, Religious, & Lay Faithful of the Diocese of Saskatoon:

Late yesterday the Provincial Health Authority and the Government of Saskatchewan announced new Covid-19 guidelines to respond to the rising cases of virus transmission in the province. **Effective Friday November 27, the total number of people participating in any celebration of the Sacred Liturgy or other service in the Church cannot exceed 30 individuals, including in the case of weddings, funerals and baptismal services. At this time, we understand presiding clergy are excluded in this count.**

While I join with you in expressing my great disappointment with this development, I also support the efforts by our provincial government to mitigate the spread of the Covid 19 virus which is becoming a very serious concern in our province, and especially to care for those most vulnerable to the effects of the pandemic – our elders and those whose health condition is poor.

I wish to commend our parishes for doing an excellent job in fulfilling all requirements throughout the pandemic. To our knowledge there has yet to be an incidence of transmission happen in our churches - including anything that would be as a result of a failure to fulfill guidelines and requirements.

I also wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the work of the Saskatchewan Religious Leaders Working Group, who have been representing the interests of all religious and faith groups in the province to the Government of Saskatchewan.

I know that many of you are wondering about the implications of these developments for our celebrations during the Christmas season. By now the planning for our parishes is well on the way! However, this year we face a very different scenario that requires flexibility and adaptability. Given the current scenario, it is my hope that we will be able to confirm directives that will affect Christmas celebrations by December 15.

In the meantime, I again express my gratitude for your patience and diligent work in supporting the efforts of the parishes and faith communities of our diocese.

Yours in Christ,

✠ Most Reverend Mark A. Hagemoen