



Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon
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May 29, 2020
Friday of the Seventh Week of Easter

**UPDATED DIRECTIVES REGARDING THE
RESUMPTION OF SACRAMENTS IN COVID-19**

**Dear Pastors, Parish Life Directors, and Faithful of the Diocese of
Saskatoon:**

As you may be aware, the Government of Saskatchewan announced a phased-in Re-Open Saskatchewan plan that has been updated periodically in recent weeks. The most recent announcement to the public on Friday, May 29 provided specific guidelines for places of worship in Phase Three of the Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan.

Further to the Directives from the Diocese of Saskatoon of May 15, 2020, which remain in effect, please note the following:

PHASE THREE – June 8, 2020

Phase Three has now been determined in compliance and consultation with provincial and local authorities. All gatherings are limited to the specified number by the government and are to be held in accordance with the Guidelines for Accommodating Worship, Guidelines for Hygiene and Cleaning and the Guidelines for Higher-Risk Activities, a copy of which can be found online [HERE](#) in the full Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan.

1. Effective June 8, 2020, the allowable occupancy is increased to one-third of the defined occupancy rate of the facility to a maximum of 30 individuals, providing social distancing of two metres can be maintained between each individual household.
2. Protocol for distribution of Communion as outlined in the May 15th guidelines are to be followed to mitigate associated risks.
3. Masks for parishioners are encouraged, but not required. A mask is required by the priest only for the distribution of Communion, which takes place immediately after the Mass.
4. While singing should be limited it is permitted. The Government guidelines state singers must increase the distance between themselves and the congregation to prevent transmission of respiratory droplets.

5. Confirmations and First Communions may be scheduled and delegation has been granted to all pastors/administrators to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation (along with First Eucharist) for those baptized Catholic as infants or children whose confirmation was postponed due to the pandemic. This delegation to pastors/administrators is in place until December 31, 2020, only. Further options are outlined in the May 15th directive to allow pastors and parishes flexibility to determine what best suits the community.
6. All other sacraments, sacramental preparation and religious education groups, prayer gatherings and devotionals may commence on the condition that all provisions regarding capacity, distancing and cleaning are met in accordance with any existing Public Health Order and the guidelines of the Government of Saskatchewan.
7. The faithful continue to have a general dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays.

Again, in issuing these directives, it is understood that the possibility still exists that every parish may not be able to offer Mass open to the public due to, but not limited to:

- factors including the vulnerability of the priest himself;
- an inability to safely provide the additional personnel needed;
- an inability to sufficiently sanitize worship spaces between uses; and/or
- other circumstances.

Parishes that have not yet resumed public celebration of Mass with under 10 people in attendance, may wish to wait until June 8, when the number increases to a maximum of 30.

For more resources and updates with respect to Covid-19 please see our website under “Resources and information” at the following link:

<https://rcdos.ca/2020/04/25/covid-19-updates/>

I take this opportunity to thank our clergy and lay faithful in our parish communities for their faithful and conscientious support in caring for all our people during these difficult times.

Sincerely, in Christ,



✠ Most Reverend Mark A. Hagemoen
Bishop of Saskatoon