

Archdiocese of Baltimore
Guidelines for Responding to the COVID-19 Virus
July 2, 2020

To limit the amount of information being shared and to make this document as easy to read and helpful as possible, it will be limited to mostly updated/new information. Limited “repeat” information is included in italics. A comprehensive set of guidelines can be found at www.archbalt.org/coronavirus.

General

- A. **Facemasks.** As we have been emphasizing, there is growing evidence that wearing facemasks is one of the most essential means of preventing the spread of the coronavirus. In addition to requiring the wearing of masks at indoor masses, we strongly encourage the use of masks at outdoor masses as well, and require them when approaching to receive communion. If they wish to do so, pastors may use their discretion in deciding to make the wearing of masks at outdoor masses a requirement for their parish.
- B. **Home Visits.** Since we are now allowing priests and deacons to resume home visits for sick or shut-in parishioners (as well as seminarians and deacon candidates), we wanted to clarify that priests are free to administer sacraments such as reconciliation, anointing and the distribution of Communion to sick and home-bound parishioners even if they are not gravely ill or in imminent danger of death.
- C. **Permission slips/waivers.** Please see the **attached** update regarding the use of waivers and permission slips, noting that we are asking that you NOT distribute the waivers until further notice.
- D. **Guidance on recording an archdiocesan grant.** Please see the **attached** document with information about how to record the grants that will be provided by the archdiocese in July as financial assistance to parishes and schools.
- E. **Chrism Oils.** As parishes begin resuming the celebration of Confirmation, please contact Fr. Kevin Ewing, associate pastor at Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, if you are in need of additional sacred chrism oil. Fr. Ewing can be contacted at 410-464-4002 or at Kevin.ewing@cmoq.org.

Communication

- A. *Repeat information: A page on the archdiocesan website has been established where all pastor.al resources will be kept: <https://www.archbalt.org/pastoralresources/>*
- B. *Repeat information: There is one central contact for the Archdiocese for all questions, concerns and reports involving the COVID-19 virus: riskmanagement@archbalt.org. As more information becomes available and as we learn of other questions or concerns more updates will be forthcoming. Updates will also be posted to [https://www.archbalt.org/coronavirus/](http://www.archbalt.org/coronavirus/), where you can refer parishioners and others for the latest information and news.*