

COVID-19 Weekly Guidance

Social Distancing Permitted to be Reduced to 3 ft. - In light of Maryland Governor Larry Hogan's Executive Order (March 9, 2021) lifting capacity restrictions in houses of worship along with his most recent Order (May 12, 2021) lifting the remaining capacity restrictions for all other venues, the Archdiocese of Baltimore is taking an incremental approach to increasing the capacity of our churches. Effective immediately, **parishes may move forward with reducing social distancing requirements from 6 feet to 3 feet** between congregants from different households.

Masking – Reminder that the masking/face covering requirement is still in effect. Masks/face coverings are required for all in-person participants at any parish activity, including liturgies of the Mass, over the age of five must wear a mask at all times while indoors. Those caring for children between the ages of 2-5 are encouraged to have those children in their care masked if at all possible. Those participating in the celebrating of the Mass, such as the celebrant, deacons, readers and others must also wear a mask at all times, except when removal of the mask is needed to clearly communicate during the celebration of Mass.

Child Care/Nursery – Parishes can resume offering child care or nursery services during Mass times for young children so parents can attend Mass. Please follow CDC COVID-19 protocols. Specifically to nurseries, the guidance should include that the adults and those supervising should be vaccinated, if at all possible. They also should provide and follow protocols for child care centers.

Children's Mass – Parishes, if they haven't already may resume offering specific children's masses. We ask that you continue to follow regulations based on best safety practices, especially during the times when children are asked to gather in front of the altar or participate in an activity as a group. An option could be to mark assigned seating for those with children who will be participating so that only one section of the church will have children coming forward.