

Archdiocese of Baltimore
Guidelines for Responding to the COVID-19 Virus
June 10, 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.

Sacramental

- A. We recently received a response from Rome allowing the use of materials such as cotton swabs or cotton balls to administer the holy oils during the Sacrament of Confirmation and other anointings. As a result, the Archdiocese will now allow the resumption of both adult and youth confirmations in accordance with the **attached** guidance.
- B. Also **attached** is the Decree delegating the faculty to confirm baptized Catholics to pastors through December 31, 2020.
- C. Three additional documents are **attached** regarding the ritual text for the Rite of Confirmation.
- D. We are also issuing new guidance permitting the distribution of Holy Communion at the end of Mass as parishioners are leaving. Please see the **attached** document for details.

General

- A. In light of the Governor’s announcement today removing further restrictions during State 2 of the State’s reopening, the Archdiocese will review the state guidance before issuing further advice. Please keep in mind that continued restrictions in some local jurisdictions must also be followed before resuming further activities.
- B. A brief Q&A addressing questions that have been raised for using the Risk Ministry Tool is attached, along with another copy of the tool.
- C. We advise that parishes not open their facilities to the use of outside groups until they have resumed public masses for their own congregations.
- D. Through the partnership between the Archdiocese of Baltimore and Catholic Review Media with myParish App and Flocknote, we are able to offer a new feature to parishes in addition to the digital worship aid and easy connections to livestream Masses and electronic giving. The new feature, FlocknoteSignups, assists with tracking Mass registration and attendance so you don’t exceed capacity, by allowing parishes to create, organize, and share simple signups with a touch of a button. The tool can be used in the future when more activities are allowed to encourage volunteer sign-ups for events, pot-luck dinners and more. There is no additional cost to use this feature since it is included as part of the comprehensive communications package from the Archdiocese of Baltimore and Catholic Review Media.

Communication

- A. *Repeat information: A page on the archdiocesan website has been established where all pastoral 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/>, where you can refer parishioners and others for the latest information and news.*