

“Religious Services” and Gatherings
Properly Applying the Limitations on Gathering Size

It is extremely important that parishes remain familiar with and appropriately apply various State and Local orders regarding limitations on the size of indoor and outdoor “gatherings.” While state guidelines limit indoor gatherings to 25 people, some local jurisdictions have lowered the indoor limit to 10 people. Again, each parish must remain current on these requirements by referring to their local jurisdiction’s website.

While the limitations on “gatherings” do not apply to “religious services,” please remember that the Archdiocese continues to limit Mass attendance to no more than 1/3 of capacity. Moreover, some jurisdictions have limited the size of religious services outdoors as well. As with general gatherings, each parish must remain current on the requirements for the permissible size of a “religious services.”

We especially ask that parishes follow the spirit of gathering size limitations and strictly distinguish them from “religious services.” Activities, such as Christmas caroling, unless held as part of a religious Advent Lessons and Carols service, is not considered a “religious service” and should be subject to local and state limitations on indoor or outdoor gatherings. It is important that our parish leadership use sound judgment to ensure that any activity not traditionally thought of as a “religious service” be considered a gathering with appropriate limitations on attendance. If a parish should have questions regarding whether or not an event or activity is a “religious service,” please contact your Regional Vicar to discuss.