

Physical Spaces

Indoor

1. No church building, permanent or temporary, including the parish hall, school classrooms, school and parish offices may be used for funeral vigil/ funeral Mass.
2. No priest, deacon, lay minister or parish representative may preside at indoor funeral vigil/ funeral Mass at any location.

Outdoor

1. Provide sufficient on-site security to ensure maximum safety of parishioners during outdoor services; ushers should not serve in both capacities.
2. Designate an usher/volunteer to oversee a first aid kit, including sufficient bottles of water, should an emergency arise due to summer heat. Ensure that the usher/volunteer possesses a cell phone to Dial 911, should it be necessary.
3. Ensure outdoor attendees do not exceed 100 persons maximum at each service.
4. Use of parish parking lot is permitted only for the seating and spacing of congregants; attendees may not remain in vehicles while attending funeral vigil/ funeral Mass.
5. Provide outdoor water misting systems, if possible. Utilize either PVC piping or appropriate rubber hosing, which can be permanently affixed to building eaves. Do not affix misting systems to portable canopies, tents, Eazy-Ups, etc.
6. Maintain social distancing between all attendees of six (6) ft. minimum, except those that reside in the same household, by spacing chairs/seating six (6) ft. apart. If benches are used for seating, mark them as you would the church pews by taping seating areas six (6) ft. apart, ensuring all seating is stationed on flat surfaces.
7. Require face masks at all times, by all attendees, with the exception of those under two years of age and younger.
8. Ensure that sanitizing teams are in place and scheduled to sanitize chairs, tables, benches, or other outdoor hard surface used during each funeral vigil/ funeral Mass.
9. Allocate sufficient time between outdoor services for cleaning and disinfecting.
10. Mark the flow of traffic to the outdoor area, by taping or posting six (6) ft. spacings wherever possible by utilizing standing signage posts, tripods, or other stationary devices, including but not limited to safety cones, guard ropes, or colored safety tape.
11. Configure parking spaces to ensure six (6) ft. separation by closing or marking every other space.
12. Install outdoor portable restrooms, if possible; if not, ensure that interior building restrooms are closely monitored and thoroughly sanitized after each use.
13. Close all exterior drinking water fountains and any decorative outdoor water elements.
14. Install sun canopies, portable tents, Easy-Ups, or similar portable overhead protections; such enclosures must be open for full air circulation on at least two sides. Ensure that all installations are securely anchored.

15. Post signs in highly visible locations (e.g., entrances, exits, foyers) reminding congregants of social distancing requirements; incorporate non-slip yellow tape in areas where trip and falls may be an issue.
16. Post signs in all restrooms, including any portables used that describe proper handwashing, sanitizing, and personal hygiene practices.
17. No outdoor fans or air circulating devices are permitted.

Pastoral Directives

1. Follow the ritual for Vigil for the Deceased/Funeral Mass as celebrated under normal circumstances, indoors.
2. Follow the directives for the Celebration of the Eucharist when held outdoors, if the funeral service is included within the Mass.
3. Follow protocols for funeral vigils such as rosaries, wakes, prayer services, etc. and perform in the same manner as indoors.
4. Permit instrumental music as congregants arrive, during communion, and the recessional; music may be provided by musicians or previously recorded and broadcasted electronically. Permit instrumental music for vigil services.
5. No cantors, choirs, or congregant singing of any kind is permitted at this time at the vigil service or the funeral Mass; however, previously recorded worship singing may be broadcast.
6. Allow musical instruments, except woodwind or brass, which generate air particles.
7. Avoid the distribution of worship aids, remembrance cards, and memory book signing.
8. No incense may be used throughout the service; the sprinkling rite may be used to receive the deceased at the entrance to the outdoor church area, and at the final commendation.
9. Permit one speaker for eulogy or words of remembrance, after the post-communion prayer, in order to avoid prolonging the vigil/funeral service beyond that which is safe. At the vigil, permit limited number of speakers for sharing memories. Keep vigil service as brief as possible.
10. No open flame candles are permitted outdoors; LED candles may be used. Paschal candle may be present, but not lit.
11. Allow flowers to be placed at, not on the altar; flowers may be removed by family/mortuary and transferred to the gravesite.
12. Assign an "on-site" monitor/coordinator to ensure that these sacramental guidelines are followed, and to ensure directives for Physical Spaces are carefully monitored.
13. Adhere to the directives for gravesite services as specified for each cemetery.

(July 16, 2020 9:00 am)