

PARISH OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES UNDER 'PURPLE TIER'
(Physical Requirements for Logistics Due to Weather Conditions)

CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

PHYSICAL SPACES

Outdoor

1. Canopies may continue to be used ONLY if weather remains pleasant.

Canopies are not effective shelters for outdoor worship and prayer as weather becomes inclement. Canopies will not sustain excessive wind, rain, snow or cold as canopies are open on all four sides. Parishes should consider weather conditions and risk to physical safety of attendees, if canopies are used, especially in areas subject to high winds.

2. Installation of temporary/permanent tents or outdoor shelters.

Four-sided tents with flaps are allowed under COVID outdoor shelters for assemblies, but ONLY if one side (flap side) remains open to allow for maximum air circulation. Completely enclosed tents or semi-permanent enclosed structures are not allowed, as they create an enclosed area which increases the opportunity for virus to spread. This would be considered the same as an 'indoor' worship area, which is not permitted under the 'purple' tier. Parishes that wish to pursue this option are advised to contact the Building Inspector/Fire Marshal in their respective city/county jurisdiction, to determine regulations that apply to this type of structure. NOTE: Permit/inspection fees may apply, including additional fire extinguishers.

3. Use of indoor room space heaters for outdoor use.

Indoor space heaters, used to generate heat in a single interior room, will NOT suffice for heating outdoor open-air gatherings or tents/structures without significant risk of over-heating and excessive electrical connections. Parishes are directed NOT to use these indoor devices for outdoor use. Further, the number of electrical extension cords needed for multiple small-room space heaters is, in and of itself, a major fire and safety hazard.

4. Use of commercial grade Propane heaters.

Commercial grade, outdoor PROPANE heaters are the most efficient and effective way to heat open, exterior spaces. These devices are allowed under fire and building codes for outdoor use. HOWEVER, the number and placement of these within a tent structure are subject to local building and fire permits; thus, these devices should not be installed interior to the tent, unless pre-authorized by inspectors. *Commercially approved, propane heaters are permitted for use in outdoor areas, under four-sided open canopies, or any open outdoor area without covering. This option is the preferred method for use, absent strong winds/rain/snow.*

5. Adherence to all other outdoor directives.

Parishes that are able to remain outdoors must follow the previously approved Outdoor directives, in addition to the aforementioned, which may provide some temporary relief for celebrants and congregation when celebrating Mass outdoors. Parishes are encouraged to use sound judgment and sensible operational practices, when making the determination to remain outdoors for whatever period of time is possible.

Indoor

No indoor worship services are permitted under the 'purple' tier, at this time.

PASTORAL DIRECTIVES

Hybrid Options To Accommodate Inclement Weather Under 'Purple' Tier

- 1. Live Stream Masses.** Indoor worship services remain prohibited under the 'purple tier'. Parishes are urged to utilize Live Stream, You Tube, and related technologies to broadcast Masses to the faithful. Parish websites should be updated regularly so that parishioners receive the most current information on the manner in which the Mass is to be broadcasted and the Holy Eucharist is to be distributed under these 'hybrid' options.
- 2. Distribution of Holy Communion.** The following guidelines are offered to enable parishioners to receive Holy Communion, directly at the parish site, yet ensure that the Diocese/parish is adhering to the State and County requirements for limitations on indoor worship areas under COVID 19.

Masses may continue to be held outdoors, as long as weather permits, or 'live-streamed' under the 'purple tier'. However, the following 'hybrid' protocols have been developed to enable parishioners to attend church in order to receive Holy Communion at specific times, immediately after a Live-Stream Mass, or at another designated time which the parish may establish.

Holy Communion may be distributed outdoors in a manner consistent with previously issued Outdoor Directives; or parishes may distribute communion 'indoors', utilizing the following protocols:

- Advise parishioners that Holy Communion may be distributed by priests/deacons on church premises.
- Utilize advanced scheduling, via EventBrite or other related applications, to ensure that adequate space and time are allocated for distribution.
- Remind communicants to remain home if ill, or if a member of their household is ill.
- Create 'walk-in' lines for distribution of communion within the church and within the parish hall; both of these may be conducted simultaneously.
- Walk-in lines must be limited to ten (10) communicants maximum, at any given time within the interior of the church/parish hall.
- Priests/deacons may distribute communion to recipients individually, as the line continues to move, OR, more practically and appropriately, at a stationary placement of ten (10) recipients, who enter and exit at the same time. Priests/deacons may utilize whichever option is most practical for the location.
- Advise communicants they may not remain within the church for private prayer or any post-communion devotion.
- Partition the 'walk-in' space in an appropriate manner, with ribbon, cords etc. so that walk-in lines can process efficiently and effectively.

- Broadcast pre-recorded, communion music within the church/parish hall to enhance the communicants involvement in the sacrament.
- Consider stationing live musicians, outdoors, if facilities and coverings permit, given weather conditions. (REMEMBER: No congregant or choral singing!)
- Designate a separate entrance/exit for communicants who require special ADA assistance.
- Position 'donation/offering boxes' at appropriate locations, should parishioners wish to contribute funds for parish flowers, food for the poor/needy etc. which is often done at this time of year.
- Adhere to all COVID protocols normally followed for both indoor and outdoor worship services, i.e. masks; social distancing; sanitizing etc.
- Ensure ample ushers/volunteers are stationed outdoors to manage the walk-in lines, including both the limitations of ten and the COVID protocols.
- Assign an usher/volunteer specifically to the parking areas in order to manage traffic flow and to guide attendees to the designated communion lines.