

Appendix B - Ongoing Liturgical Norms for **Red Phase** with Stay-at-Home Orders



All guidance based on the Federal and State Publications.

*The following protocols remain in place for all counties still in the **Red Phase**.*

Access to Churches for Private, Individual Prayer

- The decision to maintain access to a parish remains a decision of the Pastor or Parish Life Coordinator.
- Some churches have already opted to close their doors completely, and their decision will be supported by the diocesan bishop.
- Pastors and Parish Life Coordinators who have chosen to maintain access may continue to do so at this time but must follow all general prevention protocols for signage, distancing of six feet, sanitization, and restricting persons with symptoms.
- If a Church is unable to reasonably sanitize or maintain CDC authorized numbers of visitors for prayer (in this phase, 10 people), it should be closed immediately.
- A person who visits a church for private, individual prayer should wear a mask.

Status of Public Masses and Other Events

- Suspension of Masses open to the public and all public gatherings in all diocesan parishes, worship sites, college campuses, chapels and health care facilities remains in effect for counties in the red phase.
- All public adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Holy Hours, devotional prayers and processions, indoors or outdoors, are suspended.
- Private Masses should not include members of the parish who may be present in the church for individual private prayer.
- During livestream Masses, a priest is permitted to have the assistance for a very limited number of people, including a deacon, lector, cantor and/or musician. The number of people should not exceed 10.

Sacrament of Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick

- All public gatherings for the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation or the Anointing of the Sick, indoors or outdoors, are suspended.
- In the gravest circumstances, priests may make themselves available for these sacraments, taking care to follow CDC guidelines for personal protection.
- The faithful are encouraged to follow the directives of the Holy See regarding perfect contrition that have been communicated to you in our regular updates.

Sacrament of Matrimony

- All weddings scheduled are to be postponed until further notice.
- While churches may “hold open” the date of a scheduled wedding, whether the sacrament can be celebrated on that date will depend entirely on whether the restrictions have been lifted to the “yellow phase.”
- Priests, deacons and parish life coordinators are encouraged to speak to each couple and share this information with them and if necessary assist them in the rescheduling of the wedding.

Sacrament of Baptism

- The celebration of Baptism is to be suspended for the health and safety of all. In case of emergency (danger of death), the sacrament may be administered.

Funerals

- No funeral Masses or services, inclusive of those at funeral homes, are to be conducted.
- Priests, Deacons and Parish Life Coordinators may conduct grave-side burial services when appropriate for immediate family members only, mindful of the CDC guidelines for public gatherings.
- Provisions are to be made for the celebration of memorial Masses after the current healthcare crisis subsides, or the county transitions to the “yellow phase” when gatherings with a maximum capacity of 25 would be permitted.
- The use of cemetery chapels for final committal services is suspended.

