



Diocese of Salt Lake City

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 1, 2020

TO: All Priests (especially Pastors and Administrators) and Deacons

FROM: Monsignor Colin F. Bircumshaw, Vicar General

WHAT: Gradual reopening of Churches for Public Worship and other Gatherings

On May 1, 2020 the Directives from the Governor of Utah closing public gatherings for worship expired. However, we were not given a clear directive that our Churches could re-open – only that small social gatherings were allowed now and limited to 20 people. Until clearer directives are received, Bishop Solis has authorized pastors and administrators to begin public celebration of the Eucharist, but for no more than 20 people at a time, including the celebrant and ministers starting Monday, May 4, 2020. The following must be observed:

1. A priest with a respiratory infection of any kind should avoid celebrating public masses or administering sacraments during this phase. This applies to other ministers who might serve at a Mass (deacon, servers, lectors, ushers, etc).
2. No more than 20 people will be allowed in the Church for any individual Eucharistic celebration.
3. Social distancing must be maintained at all times – six feet between congregants. Use tape to close off rows of seating in the church, and mark seats in order to guide the faithful to sit at least 6 feet from each other (for example, allow seating every other row).
4. Churchgoers must wear masks and can remove it once they are seated.
5. Pastors have to make a plan to accommodate a limited number who can attend the Mass. The faithful will need to sign up to come to Mass. Inform the parishioners about this the best way that they will clearly understand.
6. People will be allowed to sign up for weekday Masses as a way of fulfilling their Sunday obligation, following the same restrictions as for Weekend Masses.
7. Designate entrance and exit to and from the Church. Ushers will lead churchgoers to their assigned or marked seat, and will be directed entering and exiting the building while observing social distancing. Suggestion: dismiss the congregation by rows at the end of Mass to avoid crowding at the exits