



Diocese of Joliet
Coronavirus Update
July 2, 2020

Dear Priests, Deacons, Parish Administrators/Business Managers,

As always, thank you for your ongoing efforts as we move to reopen our parishes.

1. Conformance to Approved Reopening Plans

- Parishes shall not alter the approved plans without submitting the request in writing to Christopher Nye via the reopen@dioceseofjoliet.org email.
- Approved plans are based on social distancing guidelines specific to the capacity of each church. They are not related to the State's phased openings or percentages of original capacity.

2. Records of attendance

- Signups in advance of service shall be continued for all who gather at the parish.
- It serves three functions:
 - i. It makes sure the number of people does not exceed the safe number that can be socially distanced in the facility.
 - ii. If, per chance, individuals arrive for Mass without registering, and there is space available according to church certification, full registration should be obtained from the individual(s).
 - iii. This information is critical and necessary to trace any outbreaks back to the source.
- Records can be destroyed after 14 days.

3. Sanitizing requirements

- Everyone should sanitize their hands when they enter church to limit outside contamination.
- Communicants should sanitize their hands again before communion.
 - i. This reduces any possible contaminants they might have picked up during the service.
 - ii. An important point that was missed in the initial guidelines, **this sanitization needs to occur at least 10 seconds before they receive the host to prevent any transfer of sanitizer to the host and recipient.**
 - iii. Do not apply excessive amounts of sanitizer since it will not dissipate in time.

Thank you, the parishioners and all of the volunteers who are assisting with the safety protocols in the opening of our parishes. In the greater context, the contagion has spiked considerably. Not only do we want to keep our people as safe as we can, we do so with the determination not to have to revert to the former status.

Happy Fourth of July!

+ 

Most Reverend Richard E. Pates
Apostolic Administrator
Diocese of Joliet