



ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE STATE OF HAWAII
DIOCESE OF HONOLULU
WITNESS TO JESUS

MEMORANDUM

To: Clergy, Parishes and Catholic Faithful

From: Deacon Modesto Cordero, Director Office of Worship

Date: August 19, 2020

Subject: Updated to Liturgical Guidelines Due to the new “Act Now Honolulu – No Social Gathering Order” [COVID-19]

We are blessed that our churches are opened and we can gather again to worship together as one Ohana. Our daily lives, routines at home, school, work and community have changed in the past months as well as our liturgies and worship experiences due to the unpredictable COVID-19 pandemic. Each island has been exposed differently to the virus and we are called to continue doing our Christian best to support our local county and government officials in fighting this illness.

In the past month the island of Oahu (County of Honolulu) has seen a great increase of COVID-19 cases. Yesterday, Governor Ige approved Mayor Kirk Caldwell’s latest emergency order for the County of Honolulu called “*Act Now Honolulu – No Social Gathering Order*” [COVID-19] which impacts the island of Oahu only in an attempt to flatten the recent surge in COVID-19 cases on the island. These restrictions impact all Catholic churches, chapels, oratories, centers, and missions, on the island of Oahu only, and begin at midnight tonight (Wednesday, August 19), and will last for the next 28 days (or until further notice).

- Face coverings (masks and/or face shields) will be worn at ALL times by all who attend Mass, including the ministers (i.e. priest-celebrant, concelebrants, deacons, lectors and musicians) during the liturgical celebration. For those parishioners and ministers with respiratory issue it is highly suggested the use of a face shield instead of a face mask.
- Singing during the celebration of the Mass or at any other church gatherings is to be suspended. The use of wind instruments (other than the organ) is also prohibited. Musicians may consider playing instrumental music, using a piano and/or church organ, during the entrance gathering, at the communion rite and recessional. One of the lectors or the priest celebrant should recite the Entrance Antiphon and the Communion Antiphon prescribed for each Mass and found in the Roman Missal. The “Alleluia” Gospel Acclamation, with its verse, may be either recited or omitted.
- The Responsorial Psalm and all the Mass parts (i.e. Kyrie, Gloria, Collect, Prefaces, Eucharistic Prayer, the Lord’s Prayer and other prayers) are to be recited.

- No face-to-face meetings with groups larger than 5 are allowed; including but not limited to, any church ministry, community and staff meeting in any church facilities. This number limitation DOES NOT apply to the celebration of public Masses, Funeral Masses, Weddings and immediate preparation of the sacraments.

Neighbor island pastors/administrators may want to consider implementing these restrictions in their own parishes (as they see it fit) to continue helping with the fight against the propagation of this virus. Always follow the latest instructions from your own County Mayor. As a reminder, the following directives from the May 22, 2020 Bishop Larry Silva's guidelines are still in effect for the entire diocese:

- **UPDATE:** The dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass is extended through **October 31, 2020**. This will allow those who are not comfortable attending Mass at this time to stay away with a clear conscience. Masses will continue to be live-streamed. An updated list of parishes that are live-streaming can be found at www.catholichawaii.org.
- As an act of charity, anyone who is sick or who is particularly vulnerable to infection should not attend Mass at this time.
- All who attend Mass must maintain proper social distancing. Whether members of the same household will be able to sit together will depend on the particular decision of each parish, so please follow the directives of your parish.
- Baptismal fonts and Holy water fonts will be continuing to stay emptied.
- To minimize the amount of ministers in the sanctuary area the use of altar servers is discouraged.
- The collection will be taken only with a long-poled basket (whose handles should be sanitized before and after use); or offerings may be placed in a locked box, guarded by at least two unrelated people.
- The normal presentation of the gifts of bread and wine will not take place, but these elements will be brought to the altar from the credence table.
- As a precautionary/safety measure and in order to avoid any exposure of the hosts to the priest's "*aerosols and/or droplets*" we ask that the hosts placed on the altar for the consecration be kept on a separate bowl covered with a pall or another cloth in the same way we cover the chalices with palls to keep bugs out.
- For Holy Communion, **ALL** ministers of Holy Communion will wear masks. Those receiving Communion will be ushered row by row so that a six-foot distance will be maintained at all times. Just before arriving at the Communion station, the communicant will remove the mask, receive Communion reverently, then immediately replace the mask.
- Communion on the hand (one hand held open above the other) is encouraged for the greater health and safety of all, though Communion on the tongue is not prohibited. The Precious Blood will only be taken by the priest.
- All ministers of Holy Communion, including the clergy, will sanitize their hands immediately before distributing Communion and immediately after doing so. (A small table or stand may be placed next to each Communion station, so that if a minister feels his or her hands may have been contaminated, the paten/ciborium can be placed on the table momentarily while the minister sanitizes his or her hands.)

- People should leave the church according to the directives given by the ushers or the priest in order to maintain social distancing during the leave-taking. Congregating in the parking lot or elsewhere is prohibited.
- No social gathering (e.g. coffee and donuts) may be held after Mass.
- Immediately after Mass the church will be sanitized according to the protocol adopted by the parish.

For any additional questions or concerns contact me at mcordero@rcchawaii.org or (808) 585-3342.