



Summary of COVID-19-Related Restrictions in the Archdiocese

Updated February 10, 2021

Dispensation from Sunday Mass

Archbishop Gagnon has granted a general dispensation from the Sunday obligation to attend Mass to all the faithful through March 1, 2021. For reference, please see the Archbishop's memo dated December 9, 2020.

All Faith Gatherings, Including Mass

The most recent provincial public health orders include provision for faith gatherings of up to 10% of church capacity or fifty (50) people, whichever is lower. For certainty, this includes the celebration of Mass, exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, praying the rosary, *lectio divina*, in-person catechism, and all other faith gatherings. For reference, please see the Archbishop's memo dated February 10, 2021.

These restrictions apply to all parishes in the Archdiocese of Winnipeg.

Weddings, Funerals, and Baptisms

The celebrations of weddings, funerals, and baptisms remain restricted to ten (10) people. This does not include the presider, one (1) cantor, one (1) accompanist, live-stream volunteers or staff, and in the case of funerals, the funeral home staff. For reference, please see the Archbishop's memo dated February 10, 2021.

These restrictions apply to all parishes in the Archdiocese of Winnipeg.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation and Counselling

Provincial Government restrictions include provision for health care and social services for churches.

“16(5) This Order does not prevent the premises of a church, mosque, synagogue, temple or other place of worship from being used by a public or private school or for the delivery of health care, child care or social services.” (https://www.gov.mb.ca/asset_library/en/proactive/2020_2021/orders-soe12092020.pdf)

This means that appointments for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, as well as counselling, can be made available to parishioners. For reference, please see the Archbishop's memo dated December 11, 2020.

These restrictions apply to all parishes in the Archdiocese of Winnipeg.

Cohorts

Cohorts – or subgroups – are currently not allowed in celebrations of weddings, funerals, and baptisms. For reference, please see the Archbishop’s memo dated November 13, 2020.

These restrictions apply to all parishes in the Archdiocese of Winnipeg.

Use of Masks

The use of masks is required in all indoor and outdoor gatherings, with exceptions for:

- children under five years of age; and
- persons with a medical condition unrelated to COVID-19 preventing them from safely wearing or removing a mask (e.g. a person with asthma, allergies, or a physical disability).

Those who wish to remove their face mask during a liturgy may do so provided they are seated and separated from other persons by at least two (2) metres (physical distancing). Also, mask use is required whenever unseated or while moving within the public space. For reference, please see the Archbishop’s memo dated October 13, 2020.

These restrictions apply to all parishes in the Archdiocese of Winnipeg.

Attendance at Catholic Centre and Parish Offices

The Catholic Centre and all parish offices must remain closed to the public until further changes to provincial restrictions. Services and ministries may continue to be provided through phone, e-mail, or other digital means. According to the recent public health orders, staff may attend the office in order to provide remote services, but in-person gatherings or meetings are not allowed.

For reference, please see the Archbishop’s memo dated January 22, 2021.

These restrictions apply throughout the Archdiocese of Winnipeg.

Questions and References

Please go to our Archdiocesan website for all COVID-19-related resources: www.archwinnipeg.ca. For questions or concerns, please contact the Communication Services Office (CSO) at communications@archwinnipeg.ca, or through phone at (204) 452-2227 ext. 225.