



Summary of COVID-19-Related Restrictions in the Archdiocese

Updated October 5, 2021

Dispensation from Sunday Mass

Archbishop Gagnon has granted a general dispensation from the Sunday obligation to attend Mass to all the faithful through November 21, 2021. For reference, please see the Archbishop's memo dated September 7, 2021.

All Faith Gatherings, Including Mass

Effective Saturday, October 5, 2021, faith-based gatherings, including Mass, are permitted for up to 33% of a church's capacity or twenty-five (25) people, whichever is greater. For outdoor faith-based gatherings, the maximum is fifty (50) people. The presider, one (1) cantor, one (1) accompanist, one (1) lector, and the live-streaming team, do not count toward the restrictions. For reference, please see the Archbishop's memo dated October 5, 2021.

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

Weddings, Funerals, and Baptisms

Effective October 12, 2021, indoor Celebrations of Weddings, Funerals, and Baptisms are allowed up to a maximum of twenty-five (25) attendees or 25% of the capacity of the space, whichever is lower. For outdoor celebrations, the limit is fifty (50) people. For these celebrations, the presider, one (1) cantor, one (1) accompanist, one (1) lector, and the live-streaming team, do not count toward the restrictions. In addition, in the case of weddings, one (1) photographer or videographer does not count toward the restrictions; and in the case of funerals, the funeral home staff do not count toward the restrictions. For reference, please see the Archbishop's memo dated October 5, 2021.

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

Outdoor Gatherings While in a Vehicle

Gatherings while in a motor vehicle (drive-in celebrations) are permitted without limitation.

For reference, please see the Archbishop's memo dated April 8, 2021.

This protocol applies 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.

This protocol applies to all parishes in the Archdiocese of Winnipeg.

Congregational Singing

Congregational singing is permissible in parishes in the Archdiocese of Winnipeg. All parishioners are required to wear facemasks while singing, and also be physically distanced from other people who do not belong to their household. For reference, please see the Archbishop’s memo dated October 5, 2021.

This protocol applies to all parishes in the Archdiocese of Winnipeg.

Visits at Healthcare Facilities

Please be advised that with the loosening of COVID-19 restrictions, faith/spiritual leaders are now permitted to minister to hospital patients or residents of long-term care facilities. At this time, a minister can only visit with one patient/resident and is not permitted to go to more than one room. The minister is obliged to abide by facility protocols: screening, hand hygiene, PPE, physical distancing, etc. Distribution of Holy Communion is also a possibility if arranged with the facility. For more information, please visit the Shared Health Manitoba website: sharedhealthmb.ca. For reference, please see the Archbishop’s memo dated July 29, 2021.

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

Use of Masks

The use of masks is required for all indoor gatherings. For reference, please see the Archbishop’s memo dated September 2, 2021.

This protocol applies to all parishes in the Archdiocese of Winnipeg.

Physical Distancing

Physical distancing remains a requirement for all faith gatherings, including Mass, with exceptions for those who reside at the same private residence. For reference, please see the Archbishop’s memo dated August 6, 2021.

This protocol applies 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. However, staff may attend the offices in order provide services.

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.