



Summary of COVID-19-Related Restrictions in the Archdiocese

Updated August 3, 2021

Dispensation from Sunday Mass

Archbishop Gagnon has granted a general dispensation from the Sunday obligation to attend Mass to all the faithful through September 12, 2021. For reference, please see the Archbishop's memo dated July 2, 2021.

All Faith Gatherings, Including Mass

Effective Saturday, August 7, 2021, faith-based gatherings, including Mass, are permitted for up to 50% of a church's capacity or one hundred and fifty (150) people, whichever is greater. For outdoor faith-based gatherings, the maximum is one thousand five hundred (1500) people or 50% of the capacity of the space, whichever is lesser. 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 August 3, 2021.

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

Weddings, Funerals, and Baptisms

Following the announcements by the Provincial Government of August 3, 2021, indoor Celebrations of Weddings, Funerals, and Baptisms are allowed up to a maximum of fifty (50) attendees or 50% of the capacity of the space, whichever is greater. For outdoor celebrations, the limit is one thousand five hundred (1500) people or 50% of the capacity of the space, whichever is lesser. 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 August 3, 2021.

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

Outdoor Gatherings While in a Vehicle

It is possible for Mass to be celebrated inside the church, in compliance with protocols, while other parishioners participate in the Liturgy while remaining in their vehicles. This is facilitated through live-stream, or in some cases, through FM transmitters which are a relatively inexpensive means of transmitting audio over short distances. Holy Communion is then distributed to those in each vehicle by the priest, deacon, or Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. These ministers are required to wear a mask and sanitize their hands prior to the distribution of the Eucharist.

Recent public health orders now allow those within a motor vehicle, while participating in a religious gathering, to leave their vehicle for a brief period of time. As before, only those belonging to the same household are allowed to be in a given vehicle. In addition, those who leave their vehicle must maintain physical distancing and sanitizing procedures at all times.

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

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 and Physical Distancing

The use of masks and observance of physical distancing are recommended for all indoor gatherings. For reference, please see the Archbishop's memo dated August 3, 2021.

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.