



Archdiocese of Winnipeg

Office of the Archbishop

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MEMORANDUM

To: All Parishes

From: Archbishop Richard Gagnon *+ R. G.*

Date: November 12, 2021

Re: Faith Gatherings in the Southern Health Region

Today, our provincial government announced tighter restrictions for faith gatherings in the Southern Health Region of Manitoba, affecting the following parishes:

- Assumption of Our Lady Church (Alonsa)
- Good Shepherd Church (Portage la Prairie)
- Our Lady of Angels Church (Amaranth)
- Our Lady of Guadalupe Church (Sandy Bay)
- St-Ambroise Church (St-Ambroise)

Effective **Saturday, November 13, 2021**, faith-based gatherings, including Mass, are restricted to twenty-five (25) people. The presider, one (1) cantor, one (1) accompanist, one (1) lector, and the live-streaming team, do not count toward the restrictions.

The above limit may be increased to 25% of the capacity of the space, to a maximum of two hundred and fifty (250) people, by implementing a cohort system. Fully separated parts of the church building (e.g., worship space and parish hall) may be used for distinct groupings of twenty-five (25) people, provided each grouping has its own entrance and exit and there is no interaction between groupings during the gathering. Obviously, a given church's architecture would dictate whether this option is a possibility for the parish.

There were no announced changes pertaining to the Celebrations of Weddings, Funerals and Baptisms (for details, please see my memo of November 5, 2021). As before, all gatherings while in a motor vehicle (drive-in celebrations) remain permitted without limitation. In addition, physical distancing and the use of facemasks is required for all indoor gatherings.

Further announcements will be made should more information be made available by our local health officials.

Thank you very much.