



## Archdiocese of Winnipeg

Office of the Archbishop

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### MEMORANDUM

To: All Parishes

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

Date: August 3, 2021

Re: Loosening of COVID-19 Restrictions

Today, the Provincial Government announced a further loosening of COVID-19 restrictions throughout Manitoba. 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 place, 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.

The Celebrations of Weddings, Funerals, and Baptisms held indoors are allowed up to a maximum of fifty (50) attendees or 50% of the capacity of the building, whichever is greater. For these celebrations held outdoors, the capacity is one thousand five hundred (1500) people or 50% of occupancy limits, 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. 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.

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

Physical distancing and the use of facemasks are recommended for all indoor gatherings. Furthermore, fully separated parts of the church building (e.g., worship space and parish hall) may be used for different groupings of attendees, with each grouping having its own entrance and exit and there is no interaction between groupings for the duration of a gathering. Obviously, a given church's architecture would dictate whether this option is a possibility for the parish.

As usual, further announcements will be made should additional information be provided by public health officials.

Thank you very much.