



DIOCESSE *of* GAYLORD

The new *Gatherings and Face Mask Order* goes into effect on March 5, 2021 at 12:01 am and the order will remain in effect through April 19, 2021. This document will replace all others on the diocesan website; please disregard previous notices.

Dispensation from Mass

- On November 9, 2020 the general dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation in the Diocese of Gaylord was extended by Bishop Hurley until further notice. The dispensation is in place for anyone who needs to stay at home to protect the common good, themselves and others can do so in good conscience.
- The recommendation to stay home is for people who are considered vulnerable due to age or have underlying health conditions.
 - If someone is sick, please encourage them to stay home.

Church Capacity

- Priests are allowed to admit the number they can safely accommodate while maintaining the required sanitizing; social distancing (6-feet minimum); and the required use of face masks.
- Church seating capacity is no longer limited to the previous 25% capacity.
- Highly touched surfaces are to be disinfected after each liturgy and hand sanitizers are available and used by all. Misting is not required.

Social Distancing and Group Sizes

- Social distancing must be maintained at all times except when brief proximity is required because of the activity, e.g., performing certain ministries or receiving the sacraments.
- Only those from the same household may sit together; everyone else should maintain 6 feet of distance in every direction for other individuals not from their household.
 - The utilization of signs, tape, or ropes should be used to help keep the 6 feet of distance while in lines and for seating.
- While social distancing must be maintained, there is no limit on attendance (percentage or fixed capacity) for indoor worship.

Non-liturgical Gathering Guidelines (face masks and social distancing required)

- Indoor gatherings at non-residential venues are permitted with no more than 25 persons gathered.
- Outdoor gatherings at non-residential venues are permitted with 300 or fewer persons gathered.