



Diocese of Harrisburg

Phases for Restoration of Public Worship

Revised March 17, 2021

For the movement from Red to Yellow, the new provisions begin the second weekend after the date announced for transition by the Governor. The date will be indicated by the Office of the Bishop. Some counties may receive permission through a request made by the dean to begin sooner than the proscribed date. This will give opportunity for parishes to publicize and to prepare properly for the changes. The movement from Yellow to Green will happen concurrently with the date provided by the Governor. If a county reverts to a previous phase, the reverted changes are effective on the Governor's effective date. These directives are subject to revision at any time by the Bishop and in accord with Statewide directives.

	RED PHASE	YELLOW PHASE	GREEN PHASE	Emendations March 17, 2021
Churches and chapels				
1. Hours of Operation	Closed to the public.	At the discretion of the pastor, churches may be open for restricted hours. Monitoring of who accesses the building and proper sanitization will be easier with limited hours.	At the discretion of the pastor, churches may resume normal operating hours.	Parishes should make the steps to resume normal operating hours by June 1.
2. Entrances	Closed to the public.	Establish a limited handicap-accessible entrance. Not all entrance doors of the church should be used in order to maintain control over number of entrants. A sign should be posted at the entrance dissuading those who are sick or experiencing symptoms from entry.	No limitation is placed on entrances, provided they are secure and able to be monitored. A sign should be posted at the entrance dissuading those who are sick or experiencing symptoms from entry. A sign should also indicate that masks must be worn by all who enter, except those who have a medical	No change.

			condition or children under 2 years old.	
3. Doors	Closed to the public	Interior and exterior doors should be propped open, whenever possible, in order to prevent unneeded contact and allow for greater ventilation.	Interior and exterior doors should be propped open, whenever possible, in order to prevent unneeded contact and allow for greater ventilation.	Steps for greater ventilation and air circulation should be taken.
4. Space delineation and pews	Closed to the public	Within the church, each parish is to use tape or ropes to create a restricted use of space for those entering for private prayer. This may include the general space of the church as well as pews. Six feet is the standard for spacing between individuals/families. It is not necessary that the entire church be accessible. This is to help reduce the area needing to be sanitized.	Within the church, each parish is to use tape or ropes to create a restricted use of space for those entering for private prayer. This may include the general space of the church as well as pews. Six feet remains the standard for spacing between individuals/families, provided masks are worn. Any person without a mask should be seated apart from others.	No change.
5. Sanitization Requirements	A deep cleaning of the entire church property is recommended.	Sanitization of public spaces is to occur after each gathering (for Mass or other liturgical celebrations) as well as at the close of day. Careful to avoid damage to wooden pews and other surfaces, pews should be wiped down with light soap and water (most pews will be damaged by harsh astringents). Door handles, doors, railings and the	Sanitization of public spaces is to occur periodically throughout the day and after each gathering. Pews, door handles, doors, railings and the cleaning of bathrooms should follow CDC guidelines for sanitizing. This should be more frequent during cold and flu season. Elevators should be regularly sanitized and allow for only one or two	No change.

		cleaning of bathrooms should follow CDC guidelines for sanitizing. Elevators need to be cleaned after each use and should only allow for one occupant at a time.	occupants at a time, based on capacity of the elevator.	
6. Occupancy	Closed to the public.	In order to provide proper social distancing, fewer than 1/3 of total church occupancy may occupy the church at a given time (this number is your church's total seating capacity divided by three). Religious spaces are not held to the minimum number for gatherings established for businesses/public gathers as indicated by the Commonwealth. See Appendix 5 for clarification.	The occupancy is based on the configuration of each church to maintain proper social distancing. There is no percentage or number limitation provided that safe social distancing can be maintained in each parish church and worship space. Religious spaces are not held to the minimum number for gatherings established for businesses/public gathers as indicated by the Commonwealth. See Appendix 5 for clarification.	Occupancy based on configuration of the worship space allowing for proper social distancing.
7. Ventilation	Well ventilated with fresh air.	Each church is to be well ventilated with fresh air. Windows and doors are to be opened, whenever possible. Using HVAC and fans, air is to be circulating. Contact your HVAC specialist to adjust the settings to allow for maximum fresh air.	Each church is to be well ventilated with fresh air. Windows and doors are to be opened, whenever possible. Using HVAC and fans, air is to be circulating. Contact your HVAC specialist to adjust the settings to allow for maximum fresh air.	No change.
8. Holy Water	All fonts and stoops are emptied.	All fonts and stoops remain emptied. Small bottles of Holy	All fonts and stoops remain emptied. Small bottles of Holy	No change.

		Water may be provided for individuals to take and bring with them when visiting.	Water may be provided for individuals to take and bring with them when visiting.	
9. Veneration of relics and images	Closed to the public.	Public veneration by making physical contact with relics and images is prohibited. Relics and images should be out of reach for the general public.	Public veneration by making physical contact with relics and images is prohibited. Relics and images should be out of reach for the general public.	No change.
10. Hymnals and other books	Closed to the public.	All hymnals, missals, missalettes, and Bibles are to be removed from churches and stored until a later date. For public worship, printed worship aids and projection screens are to be used when needed. The printed worship aids are to be used once and discarded by the user in receptacles as they leave the church.	All hymnals, missals, missalettes, and Bibles are to be removed from churches and stored until a later date. For public worship, printed worship aids and projection screens are to be used when needed. The printed worship aids are to be used once and discarded by the user in receptacles as they leave the church.	Hymnals, missals, missalettes, and Bibles may be returned to the pews. Parishioners should be invited to sanitize their hands after usage and before Holy Communion when used. It remains highly recommended to continue to produce printed worship aids for one-time use.
11. Book racks and kiosks	Closed to the public.	All public kiosks for distribution of books, devotional materials, and sacramentals are to be closed off from public access. They are to be removed or covered to prevent access. If a parish has a religious goods store or sells religious goods, this activity is suspended.	All public kiosks for distribution of books, devotional materials, and sacramentals are to be closed off from public access. They are to be removed or covered to prevent access. If a parish has a religious goods store or sells religious goods, this activity may take place carefully.	The public kiosks and devotional materials may be restored. Parishes may resume offering religious goods.

12. Votive candles	Closed to the public.	Access to lighting votive candles is to be restricted from the public. Parishioners may request the pastoral staff to light a candle for them.	Access to lighting votive candles is to be restricted from the public. Parishioners may request the pastoral staff to light a candle for them.	Parishes may resume allowing parishioners to light votive candles.
13. Sacristy	Closed to the public.	Because sacristies are confined spaces, often with limited ventilation and room, only clergy should use the sacristy. A sacristan may enter but leave after retrieving what is necessary. For all public Masses, any assisting ministers should wait in a public space outside the sacristy as indicated by the pastor.	Because sacristies are often confined spaces, sometimes with limited ventilation and room, only clergy and essential ministers should use the sacristy. For all public Masses, any assisting ministers should wait in a public space outside the sacristy as indicated by the pastor.	Parishes may allow ministers in the sacristy, provided they are wearing masks and striving for social distancing.
14. Cry Room/Nursery	Closed to the public.	Closed to the public.	Closed to the public.	May be opened according to the discretion of the pastor.
15. Sacred vessels	Properly purified and sanitized according to proper practice.	Vessels are to be properly purified and sanitized according to norms. Care is to be taken not to damage vessels with harsh chemicals or scrubbing. Often, a warm water with a little soap is sufficient.	Vessels are to be properly purified and sanitized according to norms. Care is to be taken not to damage vessels with harsh chemicals or scrubbing. Often, a warm water with a little soap is sufficient.	No change. Multiple vessels should be used for deacons and concelebrants, allowing for the principal celebrant to drink from the principal chalice. All vessels should remain covered with lids or palls.
16. Cleaning of sacred linens	Linens should be cleaned by the priests during this time.	Gloves should be worn by those who launder the linens, proper precaution needs to be	Great care should be taken in laundering linens.	No change.

		taken if linens are removed from property and taken to private homes.		
17. Vestments	If multiple priests/deacons are in a parish, they should avoid sharing chasubles and stoles. No albs may be shared. This is an appropriate time to launder all albs and dry clean vestments.	If multiple priests/deacons are in a parish, they should avoid sharing chasubles and stoles. No albs may be shared. Albs should be regularly laundered. Chasubles should be dry cleaned, if possible, or steam cleaned.	If multiple priests/deacons are in a parish, they should avoid sharing chasubles and stoles. No albs may be shared. Albs should be regularly laundered.	No restrictions.
18. Use of daily Mass chapels	At discretion of the pastor, the daily Mass chapel may be used alternatively to the main church.	For public Masses, the main church space is to be used instead of daily Mass chapels in order to provide the opportunity for greater social distancing. When the main church is incapable of providing a safe space for social distancing, parish halls may be used.	Daily Mass chapels may be used provided safe social distancing is maintained. These spaces should be sanitized periodically during the day when open to the public. Permission for use of parish halls and outdoor space remains.	No change.
19. Perpetual Adoration Chapels	Closed to the public.	At the discretion of the pastor, adoration chapels may be open with strict restrictions on hours and occupancy, following strict sanitization after each visitor. Since the spaces are small, only those assigned should be admitted during given periods. A sign-up system would be beneficial.	At the discretion of the pastor, adoration chapels may be opened with strict restrictions on hours and occupancy, following strict sanitization after each visitor. Since the spaces are small, only those assigned should be admitted during given periods. A sign-up system would be beneficial.	No change.

20. Use of churches for other purposes, i.e. concerts, presentations, etc.	Closed to the public.	Churches may not be used for public concerts, presentations, or non-liturgical use during this time.	Churches may not be used for public concerts, presentations, or non-liturgical use during this time.	No restrictions except masks, social distancing, and proper sanitization.
Persons in Attendance				
1. Face masks (Clergy)	Not to be worn during the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy.	Face masks are to be worn by clergy during the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy, except when proclaiming the Gospel, preaching and making announcements, and while at the altar for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Face masks must be worn during the distribution of Holy Communion (in all circumstances) and when processing into and out of the sanctuary.	Face masks are to be worn by clergy during the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy, except when proclaiming the Gospel, preaching and making announcements, and while at the altar for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Face masks must be worn during the distribution of Holy Communion (in all circumstances) and when processing into and out of the sanctuary.	Priests and deacons who have been vaccinated may remove the face mask after the entrance procession for the duration of the Sacred Liturgy while in the sanctuary at a safe distance from the Assembly, except when distributing Holy Communion and engaging in close contact with others for the administration of the Sacraments.
2. Face masks (Laity)	Closed to the public.	Face masks are to be worn by all lay faithful who attend Mass, except those who have a medical condition or children under 2 years old. Face masks are to be removed for the reception of Holy Communion. A lector removes the face mask to proclaim the readings. A cantor, who is separated by	Face masks are to be worn by all lay faithful who attend Mass, except those who have a medical condition or children under 2 years old. Face masks are to be removed for the reception of Holy Communion. A lector removes the face mask to proclaim the readings. A cantor, who is separated by	No change.

		a good distance from the assembly, may participate without a face mask.	a good distance from the assembly, may participate without a face mask. While strongly recommended, in parishes where Mass is celebrated outside, except at the time of Holy Communion, masks are not required.	
3. Gloves (Ministers)	Not to be worn during the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy.	Gloves are not to be worn during the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy. Gloves may not be used either for the distribution or the reception of Holy Communion.	Gloves are not to be worn during the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy. Gloves may not be used either for the distribution or the reception of Holy Communion.	No change.
4. Sanitizer Stations	Closed to the public.	Stations with hand sanitizer should be in place at the entrance of the church, in the sacristy, at the credence table, and at the location for distribution of Holy Communion.	Stations with hand sanitizer should be in place at the entrance of the church, in the sacristy, at the credence table, and at the location for distribution of Holy Communion.	No change.
5. Social distancing	Closed to the public.	Social distancing is to be practiced within church buildings. Using rope or tape (be sure to use a material that does not damage pews), indications should be made for sitting in every third pew with six feet between individuals. Families may sit together. Spacing should take into account the size of families attending together.	Social distancing is to be practiced within church buildings. Using rope or tape (be sure to use a material that does not damage pews), indications should be made at least six feet between individuals/families. Families may sit together. Spacing should take into account the size of families attending together.	No change.

6. Gathering before/after Mass	Closed to the public.	All formal and informal gatherings before or after Mass are strictly prohibited in the church and at the entrances.	All formal and informal gatherings before or after Mass are strictly prohibited in the church and at the entrances.	All formal and informal gatherings before or after Mass are discouraged in the church and at the entrances.
7. Deacons	Closed to the public.	Deacons may serve at discretion of the pastor and the deacon. Deacons are to be seated and serve at the altar while maintaining social distancing throughout the liturgy.	Deacons may serve at discretion of the pastor and the deacon. Deacons are to be seated and serve at the altar while maintaining social distancing throughout the liturgy.	Deacons are permitted to serve. They may exercise their function fully according to the norms of the <i>General Instruction Roman Missal</i> .
8. Altar Servers	Closed to the public.	Altar servers may not serve during this time.	1-2 altars servers may serve at the discretion of the pastor. They must wear masks the entire time. Their duties may not include holding the Roman Missal or other books in front of the presider. Altar Servers should not vest in alb or cassock and surplice when these are shared. If vesture is personally assigned or owned, it may be worn at the discretion of the pastor.	A reasonable number of altar servers may be used at the pastor's discretion. They may begin holding the <i>Roman Missal</i> for the presider, at the discretion of the pastor. They may vest in alb or cassock and surplice.
9. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Closed to the public	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion may not serve at this time. *Unless needed because the priest is compromised/at risk. Please consult the Office for Divine	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion may not serve at this time. *Unless needed because the priest is compromised/at risk. If they are used, they do wear an alb only when it is designated for	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion may resume serving with clear direction from the pastor or his delegate. They should be instructed in the

		Worship if this is needed. They do not wear an alb at this time.	their own use. Shared albs should not be used. Extraordinary Ministers may assist with Holy Communion to the homebound while following the safety precautions strictly.	proper way of distributing Holy Communion and sanitization of their hands when needed. They do not have to sanitize after each distribution.
10. Lectors	A single lector is permitted, but not required, at the discretion of the pastor.	A single lector is permitted, but not required, at the discretion of the pastor. They do not wear an alb	A single lector is permitted, but not required, at the discretion of the pastor. They may wear an alb when it is for their own personal use and not shared.	Lectors may resume their ministry. They may be vested.
11. Choirs	Closed to the public.	Choirs are not permitted. Choir practices are not to take place.	Choirs are not permitted. Choir practices are not to take place.	Small groups of singers (fewer than six) may be used with proper social distancing. Full choirs are not to resume yet.
12. Cantor	A cantor is permitted at discretion of Pastor.	A cantor is permitted at discretion of pastor. It is preferable that the cantor be stationed away from the assembly, in a choir loft or in the rear of the church at a sizeable distance from others.	A cantor is permitted at discretion of pastor. It is preferable that the cantor be stationed away from the assembly, in a choir loft or in the rear of the church at a sizeable distance from others.	Cantors are to resume their ministry. It is preferable that the cantor be stationed away from the assembly, in a choir loft or in the rear of the church at a sizeable distance from others.
13. Organist/Pianist/Guitarist	A musician is permitted at discretion of Pastor.	A musician is permitted at discretion of pastor.	A musician is permitted at discretion of pastor.	Musicians may resume their ministries. String instruments are preferred to wind and brass instrumentalists, unless spacing and

				ventilation allows for their safety and the safety of others.
14. Ushers/Greeters	Closed to the public.	A limited number of ushers/greeters to help direct the assembly as they enter and leave may be necessary. This is left to the discretion of the pastor.	A limited number of ushers/greeters to help direct the assembly as they enter and leave may be necessary. This is left to the discretion of the pastor.	Ushers and greeters may resume their ministry.
15. Controlled entrance into churches for Masses.	Closed to the public.	You may wish to use a system to determine those who are permitted to enter into the church for Mass. Some form of ticketing or sign-up may help in those parishes where large numbers of the faithful will want to return to churches for Mass.	You may wish to use a system to determine those who are permitted to enter into the church for Mass. Some form of ticketing or sign-up may help in those parishes where large numbers of the faithful will want to return to churches for Mass.	Parishes should begin to take steps toward "normal". This method should begin to be phased out.
Sunday Mass/Weekday Mass				
1. Schedule of Mass	Closed to the public.	At the discretion of the pastor, Mass schedules for Sundays and weekdays may be adjusted according to need. Pastors may add Masses to the parish schedule at their discretion to accommodate the needs of their parishioners. All of the requirements for sanitization after each Mass is mandatory. It may be helpful to begin with a reduced number of Masses to ensure proper cleaning can take place.	At the discretion of the pastor, Mass schedules for Sundays and weekdays may be adjusted according to need. Pastors may add Masses to the parish schedule at their discretion to accommodate the needs of their parishioners. All of the requirements for sanitization after each Mass is mandatory. Masses may take place in churches, church halls that have been properly suited for the needs of this time,	Masses should be restored to their proper schedule whenever possible. Pastors may add Masses to the parish schedule at their discretion to accommodate the needs of their parishioners. All of the requirements for sanitization after each Mass is mandatory. For Holy Week and Easter,

		Masses may take place in churches, church halls that have been properly suited for the needs of this time, outdoor, and in parking lots, even with people remaining in their cars.	outdoor, and in parking lots, even with people remaining in their cars.	Masses may take place in churches, church halls that have been properly suited for the needs of this time, outdoor, and in parking lots, even with people remaining in their cars. Parishes should plan to phase out non-Church worship space in the coming months.
2. Offertory Collection & Presentation of the Gifts	Omitted.	No offering may be taken up by pew. Baskets are to be set up in a secure place for individuals to use as needed. They should not be placed at entrances or any other location that risks thievery.	No offering may be taken up by pew. Baskets are to be set up in a secure place for individuals to use as needed. They should not be placed at entrances or any other location that risks thievery.	Offertory collecting and presentation of the gifts may resume in its customary fashion at the discretion of the pastor.
3. Placement of the bread and wine on the altar for consecration.	As needed.	At the altar, all vessels containing sacred hosts for distribution to others are to be covered with palls or purificators, remaining so during the entire Eucharistic prayer. The consecration is not impeded by covering. They are to be placed on a secondary corporal toward the side of the altar. Only the principal chalice and the celebrant's host should remain in front of the celebrant. With the use of a	At the altar, all vessels containing sacred hosts for distribution to others are to be covered with palls or purificators, remaining so during the entire Eucharistic prayer. The consecration is not impeded by covering. They are to be placed on a secondary corporal toward the side of the altar. Only the principal chalice and the celebrant's host should remain in front of the celebrant. With the use of a	No change.

		secondary chalice, concelebrants and deacons are to be communicated by means of intinction.	secondary chalice, concelebrants and deacons are to be communicated by means of intinction.	
4. Sign of Peace	Omitted	Omitted.	Omitted.	No change.
5. Holy Communion	Omitted.	Only the priest(s) and deacon(s) are to receive Holy Communion during the public celebration of Mass. The faithful are invited to receive Holy Communion after Mass following the guidelines that have been provided below.	It is recommended to continue to distribute Holy Communion after Mass. However, in those parishes where it may be done without difficulty or safety concerns, Holy Communion may be distributed to all assembled during the celebration of Mass following the procedure and safety guidelines already in place.	Holy Communion should be restored to its proper place in the Sacred Liturgy unless Mass is taking place outdoors. Parishes should begin to plan for full restoration of the Communion Rite within Holy Mass as soon as possible.
6. Reception of Holy Communion by the Faithful	In extremis only.	Holy Communion may be received in the hand or on the tongue, with encouragement of the Faithful to receive in the hand for greater caution. No one is to be refused Holy Communion for their preference of reception.	Holy Communion may be received in the hand or on the tongue, with encouragement of the Faithful to receive in the hand for greater caution. No one is to be refused Holy Communion for their preference of reception.	No change.
7. Holy Communion Outside of Mass	In extremis only.	Opportunities for the reception of Holy Communion Outside of Mass may take place, provided all the precautions are taken as listed above for sanitization and social distancing. For instance, a parish may establish a time on a Sunday afternoon when the church will	Opportunities for the reception of Holy Communion Outside of Mass may take place, provided all the precautions are taken as listed above for sanitization and social distancing. For instance, a parish may establish a time on a Sunday afternoon when the church will	No change.

		be opened or a place outside the church is designated for the Faithful to come and receive Holy Communion.	be opened or a place outside the church is designated for the Faithful to come and receive Holy Communion.	
8. Congregational singing	Closed to the public.	Many studies have noted concern about congregational singing as a hazard since singing appears to be an easy way of aerosolization and distribution of droplets. Congregational singing should be discouraged. Music led by a cantor and organist is enough to support the sacred action.	Congregational singing should be discouraged. Music led by a cantor and organist is enough to support the sacred action.	Congregations may be invited to sing and respond <i>sotto voce</i> during the Sacred Liturgy.
Confessions				
1. In church buildings	Closed to the public.	Hearing confessions in churches may resume in a well-ventilated area. Confessionals are often too confined and unsafe. A place within the church may be set up ensuring privacy and necessary health precautions. Proper signs and directions for penitents should be used to maintain social distancing for those waiting in line. Priests are to wear masks, unless a protective barrier makes this unnecessary.	Hearing confessions in churches may continue in a well-ventilated area. Confessionals are often too confined and unsafe. A place within the church may be set up ensuring privacy and necessary health precautions. Proper signs and directions for penitents should be used to maintain social distancing for those waiting in line. Priests are to wear masks, unless a protective barrier makes this unnecessary.	Hearing confessions in churches may continue in a well-ventilated area. If confessionals have been fitting with proper ventilation, they may be used at the discretion of the pastor.
2. In alternative spaces	Always in extremis. By request in safe locations	The creative means of hearing confessions, such as an outdoor station, is highly	The creative means of hearing confessions, such as an outdoor station, is highly	No change, at the discretion of the pastor.

	utilizing personal safety measures.	recommended and preferred to enclosed spaces. A place may be set up ensuring privacy. Proper signs and directions for penitents should be used to maintain social distancing for those waiting in line. Priests are to wear masks, unless a protective barrier makes this unnecessary.	recommended and preferred to enclosed spaces. A place may be set up ensuring privacy. Proper signs and directions for penitents should be used to maintain social distancing for those waiting in line. Priests are to wear masks, unless a protective barrier makes this unnecessary.	
Anointing of the Sick				
	In extremis only utilizing personal safety measures.	As needed using a cotton ball or swab for anointing and omitting the laying on of hands. Cotton balls and swabs are to be safely set aside in a bag after use and then burned. No communal celebrations of anointing of the sick may take place.	As needed using a cotton ball or swab for anointing and omitting the laying on of hands. Cotton balls and swabs are to be safely set aside in a bag after use and then burned. No communal celebrations of anointing of the sick may take place.	Anointing and laying on of hands may take place in the customary manner when there is one recipient or there is time to sanitize hands between administering the Sacrament. Permission to use a cotton ball or swab remains.
Visitation of the Sick				
	In extremis only.	Visitation of the sick may resume provided extreme caution is exercised and all the proper recommendations from the CDC are followed. Masks must be worn and social distancing maintained in homes. Visitation is recommended outside of homes, if possible.	Visitation of the sick may resume provided extreme caution is exercised and all the proper recommendations from the CDC are followed. Masks must be worn, and social distancing maintained in homes. Visitation is recommended outside of homes, if possible.	May resume according to the pastor's discretion.

Infant Baptism				
1. General Information	All Baptisms of infants are to be postponed.	Baptisms may resume outside of Mass. Only one infant/family per celebration with proper social distancing and masks required by those attending. Water must be fresh and changed after each Baptism. Cotton balls or swabs are used for anointing(s) and burned after use.	Baptisms may resume outside of Mass. Only one infant/family per celebration with proper social distancing and masks required by those attending. Water must be fresh and changed after each Baptism. Cotton balls or swabs are used for anointing(s) and burned after use.	Anointing may take place in the customary manner when there is one recipient or there is time to sanitize hands between administering the Sacrament. Permission to use a cotton ball or swab remains.
2. Location of Baptism	All Baptisms of infants are to be postponed.	Written permission may be obtained from Bishop Gainer to celebrate infant Baptisms at private residences within the parish's boundaries or outside on church property. This permission is gained by writing a letter to Bishop Gainer. In these circumstances, social distancing must be maintained. It is preferable to be done outdoors when taking place at homes.	Written permission may be obtained from Bishop Gainer to celebrate infant Baptisms at private residences or outside on church property. This permission is gained by writing a letter to Bishop Gainer. In these circumstances, social distancing must be maintained. It is preferable to be done outdoors when taking place at homes.	No change.
3. Canonical Considerations	All Baptisms of infants are to be postponed.	If baptizing an infant in a residence outside the parish territory, the baptism is recorded in the parochial territory of the house where the baptism occurred and not their parish, canon 877. 1.	If baptizing an infant in a residence outside the parish territory, the baptism is recorded in the parochial territory of the house where the baptism occurred and not their parish, canon 877. 1.	No change.

		Permission of the territorial pastor is implied.	Permission of the territorial pastor is implied.	
First Holy Communion				
	Postponed.	Pastors are to reschedule this according to their discretion making use of individual opportunities for children to receive at weekend Masses as well as weekdays.	Pastors are to reschedule this according to their discretion making use of individual opportunities for children to receive at weekend Masses as well as weekdays.	These celebrations may resume following the safety protocol and according to the Pastor's discretion.
Confirmations				
	Postponed.	Bishop Gainer extends the faculty to all priests in the Diocese of Harrisburg to confirm until December 31, 2020. Confirmation should be conferred by use of a cotton ball or swab when a large number of confirmandi are in a single ceremony. If only a single person is being confirmed, the use of the thumb by the presider is permitted provided he thoroughly sanitizes his hand afterwards.	Bishop Gainer extends the faculty to all priests in the Diocese of Harrisburg to confirm until December 31, 2020. Confirmation should be conferred by use of a cotton ball or swab when a large number of confirmandi are in a single ceremony. If only a single person is being confirmed, the use of the thumb by the presider is permitted provided he thoroughly sanitizes his hand afterwards. It is not necessary that the hand touch the head of the confirmand, according to the Dubium from the Vatican.	Priests serving an assignment within the Diocese of Harrisburg (both pastors and parochial vicars) have the standing permission to confirm during Lent and Easter each year. After Pentecost, permission must be granted by the Bishop for validity. Confirmation may be conferred by use of a cotton ball or swab when a large number of confirmandi are in a single ceremony, according to the pastor's discretion. If only a single person is being confirmed, the use of the thumb by the

				presider is permitted provided he thoroughly sanitizes his hand afterwards. It is not necessary that the hand touches the head of the confirmand, according to the Dubium from the Vatican.
Weddings				
	If possible, postponed. Otherwise, permitted with the maximum number permitted by the government norms. All present must wear masks.	Weddings may resume, with maximum occupancy and protective measures indicated above. All regulations for Sunday/Weekday Masses are to be followed. Bishop Gainer is amenable to requests for Nuptial Masses outdoors. This is obtained through writing. Holy Communion may be distributed to the Bride and Groom alone during a Nuptial Mass. The priest should sanitize his hand before distributing Holy Communion to the newly married couple.	Weddings may resume, with occupancy and protective measures indicated above. All regulations for Sunday/Weekday Masses are to be followed. Bishop Gainer is amenable to requests for Nuptial Masses outdoors. This is obtained through writing. Holy Communion may be distributed to the Bride and Groom alone during a Nuptial Mass. The priest should sanitize his hand before distributing Holy Communion to the newly married couple. The Norms for Sunday Mass apply here.	No change.
Funerals				
	Graveside committals only. Memorial Masses to take place at later date.	Funerals may resume, with maximum occupancy and protective measures indicated	Funerals may resume, with occupancy and protective measures indicated above. All	No change.

		above. All regulations for Sunday/Weekday Masses are to be followed. Funeral Masses may take place at outdoor chapels on cemetery grounds.	regulations for Sunday/Weekday Masses are to be followed. Funeral Masses may take place at outdoor chapels on cemetery grounds. The norms for Sunday Mass apply here.	
Christian Initiation of Adults				
	Postponed.	The celebration of Christian Initiation of Adults may be scheduled at any time, even weekdays, at the discretion of the Pastor. All maximum occupancy requirements and precautions indicated above are to be observed. The rite for full initiation of catechumens follows the ritual for Easter Vigil, using the Mass of the Day if occurring on a Sunday or Solemnity, or a ritual Mass (#3 For the Conferral of Baptism). Please see information regarding Confirmation indicated above.	The celebration of Christian Initiation of Adults may be scheduled at any time, even weekdays, at the discretion of the Pastor. All maximum occupancy requirements and precautions indicated above are to be observed. The rite for full initiation of catechumens follows the ritual for Easter Vigil, using the Mass of the Day if occurring on a Sunday or Solemnity, or a ritual Mass (#3 For the Conferral of Baptism). Please see information regarding Confirmation indicated above. The norms for Sunday Mass apply here.	Steps should be taken to return to the norms in the <i>Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults</i> whenever possible. The current guidelines may be used at the pastor's discretion.
Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament				
	Closed to the public.	Periods of Exposition and Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament may occur at the discretion of the pastor. All	Periods of Exposition and Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament may occur at the discretion of the pastor. All	No change.

		precautions for Sunday/Weekday Masses are to be maintained.	precautions for Sunday/Weekday Masses are to be maintained.	
Forty Hours				
	Closed to the public.	It is recommended that parish celebrations of Solemn Eucharistic Devotions be postponed or cancelled.	It is recommended that parish celebrations of Solemn Eucharistic Devotions be postponed or cancelled.	Forty Hours liturgical celebrations are encouraged to be resumed. Social gatherings should not take place at this time.

Appendix 1: Distribution of Holy Communion After Mass

Following the recommendations of the Thomistic Institute, whenever Mass is celebrated publicly with an assembly in the Yellow Phase, the distribution of Holy Communion will happen after Mass has concluded. This ensures the possibility of proper instruction, social distancing, sanitary conditions for distribution, and leaves space for those who do not feel comfortable receiving Holy Communion at this time.

- After his reception of Holy Communion (and that of the other clergy present), the priest places the vessel with the consecrated hosts for distribution into the tabernacle. The vessel should not remain on the altar. Mass then continues and is concluded.
- After the Dismissal or after the final hymn, following the norms for these, the priest may return to the sacristy or to the presidential chair to remove his chasuble and don a face mask. An alb should be worn. Gloves should not be worn.
- A small table with hand sanitizer, an ablution cup, and a purificator is set up at the location for distribution of Holy Communion.
- The assembly forms a communion procession using the norm of 6 feet between communicants.
- Since this is the reception of Holy Communion out of Mass, the priest begins the distribution of Holy Communion with, “Behold, the Lamb of God . . .” The people make the response, “Lord, I am not worthy.”
- Each communicant approaches to receive Holy Communion with their mask lowered. They may receive in the hand or on the tongue, as permitted by the law of the Church. No one is to be refused or publicly rebuked for their choice. Although, priests may encourage the careful reception of Holy Communion on the hand as a preference.
- The priest (or, whoever is distributing), should purify and sanitize his hands as often as he thinks it is necessary. This is not necessary after each person. It is necessary if contact has been suspected. Or, if a communicant requests it.
- Those who have received Holy Communion may be permitted to make a thanksgiving after reception.
- The priest reposes the Blessed Sacrament into the tabernacle and, after using the ablution cup, proceeds to the sacristy where he washes his hands thoroughly with soap and warm water.

Appendix 2: Purification and Cleaning of Sacred Vessels

Sacred vessels should be purified and properly sanitized. While the purification happens after each use, a thorough sanitization is needed only periodically if the vessel is used by only one priest. For vessels used by multiple priests and those that come in contact with sacristans and others, purification and cleaning should happen after each use.

Be careful to avoid damaging precious metals by using harsh astringents and cleaners. Instruction for care of your vessel may be available from the manufacturer. If not, a light washing with warm, soap water should be sufficient. In some cases, it is possible to use a diluted solution of rubbing alcohol on a

cotton ball to wipe the brim and inside of the cup. Gentle washing will prevent damage that occurs through vigorous scrubbing. Since vessels differ, please consult the manufacturer for cleaning, if possible.

Appendix 3: Proper Sanitization of Church Spaces

While the CDC does not specify exactly how church spaces are to be sanitized, within the Diocese of Harrisburg you are asked to follow the rules for businesses as best as possible. This includes regular sanitation of bathrooms, door handles, and other high contact places. Pews should be cleaned according to the care instructions proper to their make. In most cases, certain cleansers damage the wood and should be avoided. Warm, lightly soapy water is often the best course of care.

Appendix 4: Masses in social halls and outdoor

Whenever Masses are held in social halls or outdoor, masks and social distancing are required. Numbers should be limited in the Yellow Phase with respect to any government directives.

When Masses occur in parking lots with parishioners remaining in their vehicles, either the vehicles must be spaced widely apart or parishioners should wear masks while in their vehicles. Holy Communion may take place one car at a time – with the car driving to a place set apart and the individuals leaving the vehicle to receive Holy Communion. As a rule, Holy Communion should not be taken to cars and distributed to occupants inside.

Appendix 5: Clarification Email to Priests from May 9, 2020

There are a few points of clarification I would like to share with you based on questions that have been asked:

- 1.) Governor Wolf never formally closed any church or forbade any public worship. He asked for the cooperation of religious leaders to submit voluntarily to the directives issued by his Office. Bishop Gainer, in consultation with the other bishops of Pennsylvania, made the decision to close churches and suspend public worship for the Diocese of Harrisburg as an expression of prudence and concern for the Faithful and with respect to the Governor's authority. We continue to respect and follow that approach of compliance.
- 2.) Dr Levine spoke with Pennsylvania religious leaders at a Zoom meeting on Tuesday morning. Bishop Gainer participated in this meeting. Dr Levine reiterated that churches were not being held to the same standard as businesses or public gatherings but cautioned against charting their own path forward outside the guidelines. Currently, the guidelines permit 50% occupancy for businesses and 25 persons for social gatherings. For churches, there is no occupancy limit given

explicitly. The 1/3 occupancy, as determined by Bishop Gainer for our churches, is well within the limits established by the Commonwealth. We are not defying any orders by allowing this to happen in those churches that can fulfill the safety requirements for cleaning and social distancing.

3.) Each pastor has the discretion when the transition occurs according to the direction of Governor Wolf's Office to decide how he can carefully open his parish church and resume some level of public worship. [Note: This is not followed when counties go rogue in declaring themselves in the Yellow Phase.] The counties are large with our parishes spanning quite a distance. Each parish situation is unique. Therefore, each parish has to wrestle with the challenges of sanitation, public safety, and as well as the health and vulnerability of the pastor and his parishioners. I advise that consultation with Pastoral Staff and parish leadership be a part of the decision-making process. Some may choose not to open. Some may choose to open and not offer public Mass. Such options are within the pastor's authority to decide in these matters. Pastors may not choose to exceed the limits established by government and diocesan directives.

4.) I mistakenly omitted Infant Baptisms in the chart - [Yellow Phase] they are to follow the protocol in place for occupancy and PPE. No baptisms may occur during Mass at this time. Only one child (or family if there are siblings) may be baptized at each ceremony. Cotton balls are to be used for anointing and fresh water is to be used at every baptism.

Appendix 6: *Dubium* on using an instrument to confer Confirmation

In a memorandum dated May 14, 2020 a *dubium* had been submitted to the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments on the question of whether an instrument could be used in the anointing that is an essential part of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

By a letter dated June 2, the Congregation has replied as follows:

“The use by the minister of an instrument (gloves, cotton swab...), does not affect the validity of the Sacrament.”

Appendix 7: Norms for Concelebration (from memorandum dated July 15, 2020)

For those opportunities when multiple priests are gathered to concelebrate Holy Mass, you are asked to adhere to the norms provided in the previously published directives for public worship. The norms for Mass with a deacon assisting provide indications that apply to concelebration.

Additionally, these further considerations are to be taken:

-Vesting prior to Mass should take place in a location that is well-ventilated, provides adequate space for social-distancing, and face coverings/masks are to be worn.

-Masks should be worn by concelebrants throughout the entirety of the Sacred Liturgy except when proclaiming the Gospel, preaching, and receiving Holy Communion. Concelebrants should keep their masks in place during the recitation of the Eucharistic Prayer.

-Seating of concelebrants is to follow the norms in place for assembly seating with 6 feet of social distancing.

-If gathering around the altar for the Eucharistic Prayer, concelebrants should maintain 6 feet of social distancing while standing in place.

-Great care is to be taken when preparing the altar with the gifts. All vessels should be covered throughout the entirety of the Eucharistic Prayer, with the exception of those placed before the principal celebrant.

-For the reception of Holy Communion, the preferred method is intinction when there are multiple concelebrants. Priests and deacons should not consume the Precious Blood directly from a chalice that has been used by another. A separate chalice with wine and paten with hosts should be set apart for concelebrants prior to Mass and placed on the altar at the offertory. These vessels should be covered throughout the Eucharistic Prayer. The Consecrated Host should not be distributed to concelebrants at the Lamb of God; rather, it should remain on the paten which is to be placed conveniently near the chalice for the purposes of intinction.

-Hand sanitizer should be made easily available for concelebrants to use prior to the reception of Holy Communion.