

Catholic Mutual... " CARES "

Drive-In Church Services

Not every church has the means of providing televised/streaming services during the coronavirus pandemic. As an alternative, many are now opting to conduct drive-in church services as a way of ministering to parishioners. This can offer a sense of community whereas the parishioners are safe within their own vehicle participating with fellow worshippers while maintaining social distancing. If your parish is capable of offering drive-in church services, please consider the following guidelines.

- Check with your local authorities in advance of any "drive-in" worship service to ensure it is allowed. Every jurisdiction is different.
- Assess and formulate parking procedures on the parish property. Determine the number of stalls that can be utilized and only allow that number of vehicles into the parking lot. You may want to notify parishioners that some may be turned away once the parking lot is full.
- Try to keep vehicles spaced apart, such as using every other parking stall as shown below:



- Determine what radio frequency the mass will be broadcasted. This frequency should be provided to the parishioners through mass communication and by posting a sign at the entrance(s) of the parking lot for all to see.
- If you do not have the means of broadcasting the service via radio, the use of a speaker system could be utilized. With this method, the 6 foot social distancing between vehicles should be followed.
- Pay close attention to the weather forecast and consider canceling or postponing Mass during inclement weather.
- Recommend limiting the number of individuals assisting with Mass (i.e ushers, greeters or other volunteers).

- The parking should be guided by ushers and/or volunteers who are maintaining social distancing.
- The use of facemasks should be encouraged, if not mandated by civil authority. Parking attendants should wear bright colored vests.
- Communion will be at the direction of the Arch/Bishop. Keep in mind, Communion may be a challenge to ensure it can be done safely trying to balance social distancing, parishioners wearing masks, etc.
- Consider collecting envelopes or donations from parishioners as they exit the parking lot or during Mass to avoid traffic congestion. Utilize long handle baskets to collect offerings.

It is recommended that daily updates from the CDC and your State/Local Health Departments are heeded and procedures updated as needed. Please refer to the CDC's website at the following link:

<https://www.cdc.gov/>

Should you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact your Risk Management Representative.