



The Catholic  
Archdiocese  
of Edmonton

## Office of Communications

December 9, 2020

The Archdiocese of Edmonton has updated guidelines for liturgical celebrations and the use of parish space following the Government of Alberta's December 8 announcement of [stronger public health measures](#) to keep everyone safe, protect the health system, and slow the spread of Covid-19.

These new measures should be followed by all parishes, regardless of the municipality in which they are located.

### New Restrictions:

- Effective December 8, all indoor and outdoor social gatherings, public and private, are prohibited.
- Effective December 13, masses are limited to 15% of fire code occupancy for in-person attendance. Virtual or online services are recommended. Funerals and weddings continue to have a maximum allowable attendance of 10 (this number includes the officiant, bride/groom and witnesses, but does not include staff or organizers who are not considered invited guests.)

### Additional safety measures:

- Services must be held at their normal location. Since the use of the parish hall as overflow is a normal location for liturgies in some parishes, those parishes can use both the church and their overflow space as long as they limit attendance in each to 15% of fire code occupancy, or less if required for safe social distancing. Please note that the church and the parish hall each have their own fire code occupancy.
- In-person faith group meetings are still permitted when conducted at a place of worship as long as physical distancing and public health measures are followed. The maximum allowable attendance is 10 people in total.
- Effective December 8, masks are mandatory in all indoor public spaces and workplaces. A reminder that the celebrant and others speaking in front of a congregation are permitted to remove their masks while speaking *provided they maintain 2 metre distance from others while doing so*. Once finished speaking, the speaker *must* put on their mask again.
- We ask for online or phone registrations for Christmas masses to avoid line-ups or physical contact with parish staff.

Questions or concerns should be directed to the Office of Divine Worship which be reached at [divineworship@caedm.ca](mailto:divineworship@caedm.ca).