

Gathering Our Parish

Additional Guidelines for

OUTDOOR WORSHIP

Morning Prayer Only

It should be said, there is no **elimination of risk** with regard to COVID-19, there is only the adoption of practices to lower risk.

“All things are lawful, but not all things are beneficial.

All things are lawful, but not all things build up.” (1Cor 10:23)

Under the guidelines, outdoor worship may begin on the date your region enters into Phase IV of the State of New York Plan.

A **written plan** must be created and submitted to the diocese before entering into outdoor worship.

Regardless of what numbers or percentages may be issued by any government official, the space that is proposed to be used must accommodate **proper physical distancing**. Whatever capacity is smaller should be used.

There will be no in-person coffee hour/social gathering.

Masks should be worn at all times by congregants and leaders unless there is a medical reason for a person to abstain.

Contact Tracing information must be kept for four weeks after each service.

Weddings and Funerals may exceed the ten-person limitation but only to the extent that proper physical distancing is achieved.

Singing may occur at outdoor services as long as masks are worn and physical distancing is properly maintained.

Questions to address in your plan

How will you inform people that worship is cancelled due to weather or other circumstances?

How will you remind people to stay away if they have symptoms or have been with someone who is symptomatic or tested positive for the virus?

How will seating be provided for those gathered?

If parish seating is provided, how will it be set up and taken down and still maintain sanitation and proper physical distancing? Will gloves be required?

How will you welcome people who arrive above the allowable capacity?

How will you ensure that people remain 6 feet apart while walking to and from their seats?

How will items used in the worship be handled so as to maintain proper sanitation? (Mics, etc.)

How will hand sanitizer and masks be made available to those attending?

How will documentation for contact tracing be achieved in a manner that eliminates contact?

How will amplification be provided to prevent people from moving closer to hear?

How will you remind people of physical distancing before, during, and after the service?

How will you distribute safety information about COVID-19 to those attending?

If contiguous to the Church building, how will you control access to and sanitize the restrooms before the service and after each use of the facility?

At **Weddings and Funerals**, where people are more likely to want to congratulate or comfort others in a physical manner, how will you ensure that physical distancing will be maintained throughout the event?