

## COMMUNIQUÉ No. 49 – NOVEMBER 19, 2021 INFORMATION

**To pastoral teams,  
To priests, deacons, PCLs, LPAs,  
To the faithful active in their communities,  
To members of religious communities,  
To Archdiocese staff,**

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Good morning!

As promised, here are the new guidelines and measures in effect from November 15 as approved by Archbishop Christian Lépine concerning the rental of places of worship in pastoral settings and activities held in them:

### RENTAL OF ROOMS IN PLACES OF WORSHIP

Health guidelines to be followed according to the nature of the activity to be held in the rented space;

#### **1) Rental for a religious activity**

- Number: maximum of 250 persons if passport **is not** required; over 250 persons if vaccination passport **is** required
- Physical distancing: one (1) metre if passport **is not** required; no minimum physical distancing required if vaccination passport **is** required
- Masks: mandatory at all times, except while eating or drinking
- For all worship activities, those in charge will decide whether or not to require the vaccination passport:

#### **Scenario A - Vaccine passport required**

- No physical distancing,
- No maximum capacity,
- Standing permitted,
- Masks to be worn at all times, except while eating or drinking.

#### **Scenario B - Vaccine passport not required**

- Physical distancing of one (1) metre,
- Maximum of 250 participants indoors (500 outdoors),

- Standing permitted,
- **ATTENTION! NEW REQUIREMENT** (most recent instructions issued by Public Health): Masks are to be worn at all times when indoors, except while drinking or eating. It is **therefore no longer permitted to remove masks** in our congregations, even when seated.

**\*Note regarding choirs, as mentioned in VG Communiqué no. 48:**

With respect to choirs, at all Masses, whether requiring passports or not, once the choir member's has removed their mask, precautionary measures must be taken: the distance separating singers from one another and from any other musicians must be at least two (2) metres. Smaller vocal groups (mini-choirs) are to be preferred. Remember that the congregation may sing, but masks must be worn throughout.

## **2) Weddings**

At the reception or banquet that customarily follows the wedding ceremony:

- Number: maximum of 25 persons
- Physical distancing: one (1) metre
- Masks: mandatory throughout

## **3) Funerals**

At the reception following the funeral, guidelines applicable to private activities in a public place are in effect:

- Number: maximum of 25 persons
- Physical distancing one (1) metre
- Masks: mandatory throughout

## **4) Rental of rooms for Christmas and New Year's parties and receptions**

Guidelines applicable to private activities in a public place are in effect:

- Number: maximum of 25 persons
- Physical distancing: one (1) metre
- Masks: mandatory throughout

## **5) Rental of space for shows/entertainment, Christmas concerts and other cultural activities**

Health guidelines applicable to Events and Shows are in effect, as follows:

- Vaccination passport **is** required;
- Number: no maximum capacity is set; sections are not required to be separated;
- Masks: must be worn at all times when indoors, except while eating or drinking;
- Standing and dancing are permitted;
- All additional regular protocols must be followed: application for permits or any other authorizations required by the municipality.

## **6) Rental to a community organization**

- Workshops and support group meetings (e.g. Alcoholics Anonymous) may be held;
- Number: maximum of 250 persons, provided that all remain seated;
- Physical distancing: one empty seat separating each participant from neighbours;
- Additional health guidelines to be followed: masks, washing or sanitizing hands, etc.

## **[ANNOUNCEMENTS - DIOCESAN CENTRE FOR MARRIAGE, LIFE AND FAMILY](#)**

### **Building Solidarity Through Faithfulness: Mini Retreat for People Who are Separated/Divorced – November 27<sup>th</sup>**

- Has anyone ever said that separation and divorce had to be experiences of deep solitude? During this mini retreat with Archbishop Christian Lépine (in French in the morning, in English in the afternoon), come and discover that not only are you not alone, but through faith and solidarity with others and with God, this experience can become an opportunity for growth and healing. For more information and to register, please go to <https://diocesemontreal.org/en/upcoming-activities>

### **Follow the Star/Suivez l'étoile – Online 4-Week Program for Families for Advent, November 27 to December 18**

Follow the star of your creativity and nourish your family relationships in this 4-week online Advent program for families!

- Through theatre and art-based exercises, we will accompany you in developing a playful environment that promotes faith, hope, love, joy and peace in your homes. Family members will build resilience, strengthen their relationships, and experience the loving presence of Christ. During the program each family will create an advent calendar. No artistic experience is required. For more information and to register, please go to <https://diocesemontreal.org/en/upcoming-activities>

### **Couch Talk: Make Time for your Couple - December 7 (Hidden Lives of Men & Women (Communication))**

- Looking to rekindle your love? Join us for 5 fun and interactive virtual meetings where we will discuss topics related to married life. In a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere, we will share our ideas on happiness, communication, parenting, intimacy and work life balance. These sessions are free, but pre-registration is required. For more information and to register, please go to: <https://diocesemontreal.org/en/upcoming-activities>

### **Advent Calendars – Available in English, French and Spanish (PDF and printed versions)**

- This Advent, bring your family closer together and discover new ways to love and to serve each other: that will be the most beautiful crib for Jesus who will be born at Christmas! Thanks to this 2021 Advent calendar and the activities that are proposed to families and couples, you will experience God's infinite love and His desire for happiness for your family. To order your Advent calendars, please go to <https://diocesemontreal.org/en/upcoming-activities>

In our Saviour Jesus,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "+Alain Faubert". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning.

† Alain Faubert, VG  
Auxiliary Bishop of Montreal