

COMMUNIQUÉ No. 61 – MARCH 11, 2022
INFORMATION

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The re-opening process is rolling out across Quebec and in our gathering places. Following are some guidelines for keeping the coronavirus under control:

1. Measures in effect as of March 12

BASIC GUIDELINES – TO BE FOLLOWED AT ALL TIMES

- Washing hands upon entering;
- Wearing masks;
- Maintaining a distance of one metre between individuals or bubbles;
- Strongly recommended: refraining from moving about during services, including at Communion.

VACCINATION PASSPORT

- Vaccination passports are not required for those taking part in liturgical gatherings.

CAPACITY OF PLACES OF WORSHIP (for Masses, baptisms, marriages, Confirmations, funerals, etc.)

- There is no set figure to limit the number of participants; the distance of one metre required between participants or bubbles will determine the maximum capacity of the given place of worship.

BODY OR ASHES PRESENT IN A PLACE OF WORSHIP

- Maximum of 50 persons permitted at any given time; rotation is permitted for those paying their respects; no vaccination passport required;
- No attendance log of participants required.

PRIVATE EVENTS IN A PUBLIC PLACE

- Permitted WITH NO vaccination passport required;
- No limit on number of participants (basic guidelines must be followed).

MEETINGS

- NO vaccination passport required; maximum permitted is 50% of the capacity of the venue, to a limit of 250 persons;
- Examples : Parishioners' meeting, annual general assembly of an NPO, assembly of the Knights of Columbus, etc

CHOIRS

- Distance of one metre required separating singers;
- No maximum number of singers;
- Masks (homemade acceptable) may be taken off during performance and replaced when singing is finished.

CATECHISM

- Permitted with no vaccination passport required;
- Leaders (catechists) must observe measures mandated by the CNESST.

SINGING IN THE CONGREGATION

- Distance of one metre required separating persons from different dwellings while singing or speaking aloud;
- Masks compulsory.

WORK

- Working remotely not required: nonetheless, working in "hybrid" mode (combining in-person and remote work) is recommended;
- Fabrique and pastoral team meetings: permitted as long as CNESST guidelines are followed: masks mandatory, distance of one metre required separating participants, but no vaccination passport required.

SPACE RENTAL

- Rental of rooms permitted to private individuals or third party organizations;
- Health guidelines vary depending on the given activity involved;
- For activities of a social nature in a rented hall, no restrictions are in effect regarding the number of participants;
- No vaccination passport required.

GUIDELINES FOR MASSES

a) *Practical measures:*

Same basic guidelines (hand-washing, masks mandatory, self-distancing, etc.).

b) *Welcoming:*

- The celebrant may welcome congregation members at the entrance;
- Distance of at least one metre from members of the congregation must be maintained at all times.

c) *For lectors and altar servers:*

- At all times, whether during the entrance or exit procession or in the sanctuary, a distance of one metre must be maintained separating individuals from one another.

2. Ministers for confirmations

The general delegation of celebration of Confirmations granted to pastors due to the pandemic is no longer in effect. An application may still, however, be submitted to the Chancery Office (chancellerie@diocesemontreal.org), requesting that a pastor be authorized by the Archbishop to celebrate Confirmations, either at the Easter Vigil or at another time in the liturgical year.

There is still time to submit a request in order to invite a bishop or minister with a special mandate from the Archbishop to preside at the celebration of Confirmations. The relevant form must be completed online through our website: [Faith Education | Diocese of Montreal \(diocesemontreal.org\)](https://www.diocesemontreal.org/faith-education). All dates proposed for Confirmations will be accepted, and the Office for Faith Education will send the minister selected, depending on his availability. In the comment section of the form, there is the possibility to suggest three ministers. The list of Confirmation ministers can be found on the above-mentioned web page. If arrangements have already been made with a particular minister, please indicate this, and Ms. Rosetta Staltari will confirm with you. Should you have any questions or require further information, please contact Ms. Staltari at: rstaltari@diocesemontreal.org.

3. Announcements

Solidarity with those suffering under the war in Ukraine

It is impossible to remain unmoved by the violence of the armed conflict ravaging Ukraine. Archbishop Christian Lépine will preside at a Mass for peace on Friday, March 11, at 7:30 p.m. The celebration will be followed by a time devoted to Eucharistic adoration. This will continue throughout the night, ending with the five o'clock Mass on Saturday, March 12 (see Communiqué published on the diocesan website: [here](#).)

As an additional reminder, Archbishop Lépine's pastoral letter can be found [here](#): Prayer for Ukraine and Peace:

In its recent communiqué, the Assembly of Quebec Catholic bishops called for solidarity with the people affected by this war. The communiqué can be found [here](#). Kindly share this message as widely as possible with your various networks and include a reading of it in your Masses this weekend.

Enriching Marriage: Two virtual workshops for couples (in French only)

The Diocesan Centre for Marriage, Life and the Family is organizing two workshops to assist couples in renewing their love and discovering the gifts of marriage that God continues to offer them today:

"**Accepter nos différences**" (Accepting our differences) – Thursday, March 24, 8:00-9:30 p.m.

"**Le couple modèle**" (The Model Couple) – Wednesday, May 11, 8:00-9:30 p.m.

[Sign up here](#): Zoom link will be sent shortly before the beginning of the selected workshop(s).

As we journey towards the light of the Resurrection, dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, may I wish you a Lenten season rich in spiritual fruits.

In Jesus Christ, our Passover and our enduring Peace!

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