

GUIDE FOR OUTDOOR MASSES - Archdiocese of Montreal

The parishes and missions of the Archdiocese of Montreal serve the people of God. They make every effort to provide welcoming and safe spaces in the spirit of service, while being attentive to individuals' particular circumstances. In the current situation, where Masses are being held outdoors, it is important to bring our practices in line to reflect these values. The guidelines set out here call on us to collaborate in a manner that is caring and life-giving.

It is the responsibility of parish priests and mission leaders and their teams, relying on the support of the Diocesan Deconfinement Committee, to take the lead and communicate with liturgical servers and praying congregations.

PRACTICAL GUIDELINES

- A supervisor will be present before and throughout all celebrations to ensure that health guidelines are being properly deployed and observed by all. This person will count the number of people entering the parking lot and will be in charge of a box of masks;
- Celebrants, acolytes, lectors and cantors are provided with the information contained in the health regulations and measures that have been established in order to ensure the safety of all persons in the context of the pandemic. They pledge to follow these regulations in order to be called upon to participate in the Masses celebrated in the parish or mission;
- Ministers in charge of distributing Communion **must** present a valid vaccination passport in order to be permitted to move about during the Mass;
- A calendar is to be drafted with a standing schedule indicating hours of service for acolytes and lectors;
- The practical guidelines are to be read aloud by the lector before every celebration in order to ensure that the whole congregation is aware of the health guidelines to be followed (see Appendices below);
- Before the "Eucharistic Communion" begins, the practical guidelines are to be read by the lector;
- A strict maximum of four (4) or five (5) people, including the celebrant, the cantor and an acolyte or a deacon, may be seated in the places reserved for the celebration; it is preferable that the lector be seated in the congregation;
- Masks must be put on inside the sacristy (appropriately set up for this purpose) by the celebrant and his assistants in the service during the Mass **before** they disinfect their hands and proceed to the place where the Mass will be celebrated.
- A container of ready-to-wear masks and a container of disinfectant lotion are to be positioned on a small table near the altar where the Eucharistic celebration will take place.
- Physical distancing (at least 1m), hand disinfection and the wearing of masks must be respected by **everyone** at all times.

WELCOMING

- The celebrant will welcome the members of the congregation exclusively from the presiding chair, addressing a message to the congregation as a whole.
- He must wear a mask and avoid all direct contact with members of the congregation, as well as maintaining at all times a distance of at least 1m from them.

NO ENTRANCE PROCESSION

- The celebrant and the acolyte or deacon proceed from the sacristy to the place where the Mass is to be celebrated taking the shortest route, in order to avoid as much as possible any contact with the congregation;

READINGS

LECTORS

- The lector, if someone other than the acolyte, will be seated in the congregation: he or she will approach the ambo when the time comes to do the reading and will then return to his or her seat when their reading is finished;

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL AND THE HOMILY

- The minister may proclaim the Gospel from the ambo (the deacon) or from the altar (the priest), and likewise for the homily.

ALTAR SERVERS

ACOLYTES

Acolytes (other than the deacon):

- will approach the altar when their service is required;
- will return to their seats when their service is finished;
- will maintain a distance of 1m from the celebrant at all times

THE OFFERTORY PROCESSION

- There will be no offertory procession;
- Before Mass, the sacristan places the sacred vessels and all the articles of worship on the main altar or on a small credenza not far from the altar.

SINGING

PERSON LEADING SINGING

- The person leading the singing must at all times maintain a distance of 1m from the minister and from the other participants in the worship service (e.g. acolytes, lector)
- If he or she sings in front of the congregation, it must be at a distance of at least 2m.

CONGREGATIONAL SINGING

- Members of the congregation may sing, provided they are in a place where the air circulates freely; they should be 1m apart from one another and must wear masks at all times.

COMMUNION

- After the Agnus Dei, the lector announces that Communion will take place following the Mass and reiterates the health guidelines for safely receiving Communion;

- After the blessing, the Communion ministers, wearing masks, go to the place designated for their service accompanied by a person to hold an umbrella;
- Communion in the hand ;
- The communicants wear their masks and, at all times maintaining a distance of 1m between their bubbles, proceed to the place where the ministers are standing;
- The worshippers take Communion and go directly to the exit of the parking lot;
- When the last person has taken Communion, the Communion ministers return to the sacristy to place the ciboria in the tabernacle.
- **No exit procession**

Everyone's cooperation is required!

APPENDIX I: PRACTICAL PROVISIONS (To be read before each Mass)

1. THE GUARDIAN at the entrance is at your disposal during the whole celebration;
2. The physical distance of at least 1m between the bubbles and the wearing of a mask must be respected at all times;
3. Members of the congregation may sing, while maintaining a distance of 1m between the bubbles and wearing the mask at all times.

ANNEX II: PRACTICAL PROVISIONS (To be read after the AGNUS DEI)

- COMMUNION will take place at the end of the Mass, after the blessing and the sending
- Communion ministers wearing masks will go to the place where they will distribute Holy Communion (towards the exit of the parking lot): Please wait until they have returned to their post!
- Wearing your mask and always keeping a distance of 1m between the bubbles, you will move towards the place where the ministers are to receive communion.

ANNEX III: SENDING BY THE PRIEST

"Go in the peace of Christ and humbly receive the Lord by making your hands a throne to receive him and carry him in your heart.