



Temporary Allowance for Outdoor Mass during COVID-19 Pandemic

The following guidelines are to assist parishes who have the ability to hold an outdoor Mass. This permission is granted only during the time of the COVID-19 Pandemic, and shall expire on a date to be determined by the Ordinary of the Diocese of Green Bay, Bishop David L. Ricken. The following guidelines apply to any and all parishes seeking permission for an outdoor Mass.

1. The priest/pastoral leader is to write to the appropriate office – Fr. John Girotti – to secure permission to celebrate Mass Outdoors. A list of guidelines and regulations will be sent to the parish upon the granting of this request.
2. Pastors may apply to have Outdoor Mass/es only for the Mass of anticipation – Saturday after 4pm – on Sunday, or in the case of special Masses such as a Wedding, Funeral, First Communion, or Confirmation.
3. The Outdoor Mass is to be only permitted on Church property, preferably under a tent or covered area adjacent to a wall of the Church if possible.
4. Pastors should check with local governmental officials to ensure that such celebrations are in keeping with civil expectations.
5. Depending on the location, the faithful may be encouraged to bring their own seating.
6. The people attending the Mass must observe social distancing guidelines by maintaining at least a 6-foot distance between parties, except for members of the same household or those arriving together in the same vehicle.
7. Face masks, while not required in these circumstances, should remain highly encouraged. Reasonable exceptions should be made, but those assisting in the ministries of the Mass should be required to wear them.
 - a. The priest celebrant should wear a face covering when he is distributing Communion. During the other parts of the Mass, his use of a face mask or cloth face covering depends upon the proximity of others.
 - b. For the consecration, the ciboria of hosts for the people should be placed on a corporal on the far edge of the altar mensa, not directly in front of the priest as he speaks the Eucharistic prayer.
8. An adequate sound system or sound delivery system should be used to properly amplify sound for the faithful.
9. There should preferably be a raised platform on which the Altar and Ambo can sit so the faithful can adequately see and participate in the liturgy.
10. The Mass may occur within the Church parking lot; however, the faithful should not be seated in their vehicles for the liturgy.
11. Managing weather related concerns:
 - a. Wind:
 - i. Use dignified weights to keep altar linens and pages from being blown.
 - ii. Hosts should be in covered ciboria.
 - iii. For candles, use glass wind protectors on the followers.
 - b. Heat and Sun:
 - i. Encourage people to bring their own supply of water.
 - ii. For the welfare of the faithful, shade should be sought out under trees, pavilions, tents, etc.
 - c. Severe Weather: In situations of rain, lightning, sand storms, snow, ice, etc., Outdoor Mass should be postponed, or a different option should be utilized.

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