

❖ Virtual Meeting for PCLs and YMs ❖



*Going Forward as
Parishes begin to Reopen
in the time of COVID-19*

Tuesday, April 21, 2020

Sacraments of Initiation & Reconciliation/Confession - 5.19.20

RECONCILIATION/CONFESSIONS

- In the Archdiocese of San Antonio, General Absolution is not approved at this time. As long as churches can remain open, priests can hear confessions in the church or by appointment, following the requisite sanitation procedures and social distancing guidelines, to include the use of masks.

INFANT BAPTISM

- Infant Baptism may take place in parishes at the discretion of the pastor so long as social distancing and sanitation procedures are followed, to include the use of masks.

FIRST COMMUNION

- First Communion for children may be celebrated at the discretion of the pastor and according to the requisite sanitation and social distancing procedures, to include the use of masks.

Sacraments of Initiation & Reconciliation/Confession - 5.19.20

CONFIRMATION

For all adolescent students prepared for Confirmation and for baptized, Catholic adults who have already received first Communion and have been prepared for Confirmation: According to correspondence sent to all pastors earlier this month by Archbishop Gustavo, a date is to be set by each parish for Confirmation. This date is to be between June 16, 2020 and August 31, 2020. The requisite sanitation and social distancing procedures are to be followed, to include the use of masks.
(continued on next page ...)

Confirmation, continued ...

When the date has been set (only one if at all possible), please inform the Office of the Archbishop at linda.ramirez@archsa.org of 1) the date and time of the celebration as well as 2) the full name - and saint's name - of all of the confirmation candidates 3) by June 15, 2020. This date presupposes that the pastors who will be transferring to another parish on July 1, 2020, will set the date prior to leaving the parish so that the incoming pastor has the information. Once the Archbishop's Office has received this information, the Archbishop will issue a specific rescript giving each pastor faculties to confirm those adolescents and adults on the submitted list on the specific date the pastor has identified for his parish. If assistance is needed in planning the Confirmation mass, please contact Grace Rodriguez at grace.rodriguez@archsa.org or Fr. Heliodoro Lucatero heliodoro.lucatero@archsa.org in the Office of Liturgy and Christian Prayer

<https://www.archsa.org/FAQs-for-pastoral-ministers>

Recommendations for Parish Activities as of 5.19.20 (Outside of Mass & other Liturgies)

- The principles of social distancing remain in effect for the foreseeable future. This includes wearing masks, maintaining a six-foot radial distance from other people who are not members of one's household, and holding meetings in spaces large enough to allow for such distancing.
- If organizational or ministry meetings can occur on-line, then this practice should continue whenever possible.
- Priests, other parish ministers, staff, or volunteers who meet with individuals should be careful to wear masks and maintain a six-foot distance. Confessions, spiritual direction, or pastoral counselling should be conducted in a place that allows for such distancing, yet maintaining privacy.

Recommendations for Parish Activities as of 5.19.20 (Outside of Mass & other Liturgies)

- All in-person meetings must follow social distancing protocols. Parish staff should wear masks at work and maintain the six-foot radial distancing.
- Regular parish formation such as religious education, RCIA, Scripture study, youth ministry, etc. may take place following social distancing and sanitation guidelines, to include the use of masks.



- Updates will be provided as additional information becomes available.

What if ...

- ❖ ...there are parents in your parish that aren't letting their children attend school for health concerns and are homeschooling – and want the same for religious education and/or youth ministry?
- ❖ ... some families in the parish have internet access and are willing to do online r.e. and/or virtual youth ministry, but other families don't have such access?
- ❖ ... given the facilities in your parish, there are more children in the r.e. program that can be safely accommodated given social distancing guidelines?

Have as your goal this year: What creative strategies can be implemented to serve and accompany these and other families? – your parishoners!

Three “Hybrid” Possibilities ... there can be many more.

- ✓ Have a “homeschool” option ready for families who are part of your program but are not sending their child(ren) to r.e. for health or other reasons. Most publishers have a digital version of their materials that can be used at home – the catechist should check-in with the family once a month to accompany the family and answer questions.
- ✓ Be prepared to serve families without digital access if your program is going online. In addition to whatever written material they receive at the beginning of the r.e. year, arrange for monthly “pick ups” of timely information, prayer or projects for the family keyed to the liturgical year. The catechist should also check in regularly to accompany the family.
- ✓ Consider having half of the r.e. students come in one week, and the other half the following week, if the number of students in the r.e. program makes the necessary social distancing difficult or impossible. Help catechists prepare material for the family to do together at home during alternate weeks.

**Our Lady of Guadalupe, Star of the New
Evangelization, Health of the Sick, and Empress of the
Americas – Pray for Us!**

