

Email message: 16 September 2021

On 15 September 2021 the Alberta Government issued new restrictions on public gatherings in light of the development of the COVID-19 virus. The following are restrictions that apply to us in our parishes.

“It is out of a sense of Christian duty that we protect each other from COVID-19 and slow the spread and prevent another wave as well as the potential for further, even tighter, restrictions on our ability to gather and to worship” (Fr. Jim Corrigan, Vicar General).

New restrictions regarding those attending Masses at our parishes:

1. Restrictions, effective 15 September 2021, concern three matters:

- a. The wearing of masks in the church buildings
 - b. The requirement of physical distancing
 - c. The maximum number of persons in attendance
2. The restrictions do not involve any matters regarding vaccinations.

3. Masks:

- a. Masks are required to be worn during the entire time while attending Mass or any other function in our church buildings.
- b. Those who have an Alberta-Health-Services-recognized exemption from wearing a mask do not have to mask while seated during Mass; *however such persons must still wear a mask during the time they approach for Holy Communion.* This latter requirement is mandated by the Archdiocese of Edmonton.

4. Regular Weekday and Weekend Masses:

- a. Maximum number of persons permitted to allow for the required two-metre distancing:
Assumption: 78 persons Resurrection: 74 persons
- b. Church opening:
Church doors will be opened only 20 minutes before Mass.
- c. **Attendance is on a first-come-first-served basis**, and tickets will be issued at the door to control numbers. *We ask that you kindly consider not coming to a Sunday Mass each weekend in order to allow more parishioners the opportunity to attend on a rotating basis.*
- d. Physical distancing:
 - i. Two-metre physical distancing between households
 - ii. If you live alone, you may sit with two “close contacts”
- e. The dispensation from the Sunday obligation continues in effect until further notice; live-streaming Masses are still offered. For a list of live-streamed Masses in the Archdiocese, see www.caedm.ca

5. Weddings & Funerals:

- a. Maximum of 50 persons
- b. No receptions permitted

We await further clarification from the Archdiocese of Edmonton once they have been able to consult with government officials for any outstanding questions and issues.