Protocols for Celebration of Public Masses
Diocese of Winona-Rochester

- The dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains in effect until further notice.
- If possible, live-streamed or taped Masses should continue while restrictions about attendance at public Masses are in place.
- Those over age 65 and those with underlying health conditions will be strongly encouraged not to attend. It may be possible to bring them the Eucharist as circumstances allow, through a visit from a priest, deacon, or extraordinary minister of Holy Communion. Also, anyone showing any symptoms of sickness, or anyone who has a household member who is sick or showing symptoms of sickness should not come to Church. While much effort will be put into sanitizing your parish facilities, risks still remain for those who choose to attend.
- While future guidance will be given, total attendance is not expected to exceed more than 1/3 of the capacity of the church at each Mass. You and your team will be responsible for figuring out how to limit attendance. It is best to be proactive in making this decision.
- The space will be thoroughly sanitized before and after each service, including all entryways and doors. Holy water fonts should be empty and hymnals removed.
- Signs will be posted concerning social distancing and sanitation requirements.
- Hand sanitizers will be available at all entryways.
- Please follow all local safety orders specifically relating to proper face coverings such as masks.
- People will be instructed not to greet each other by touching.
- Signs and other instructions will encourage normal, safe practices necessary to stop the spread of infection (e.g. cough or sneeze into a shirtsleeve, handkerchief, or tissue; avoid touching the eyes, nose, and mouth to help slow the spread of the virus).
- Ventilation will be increased as much as possible, by opening windows and doors, as weather permits.
- To reduce the spread of the virus, parishioners are encouraged to attend Mass only at their parish.