



## ARCHDIOCESE OF LOUISVILLE

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OFFICE of the ARCHBISHOP

November 19, 2020

Dear Father,

May God bless you!

I have received information from the Governor's Office in light of his executive orders of Wednesday, November 18. In terms of schools, the executive order mirrors our own previously released recommendation for schools to move to non-traditional instruction, beginning November 23 through January 8, 2021. I appreciate you and our school leaders working together with the Governor for the common good.

The executive order regarding wedding and funerals clearly applies to public venues, but not to public worship as we continue to observe our "Healthy at Worship" guidelines, and I believe that the "Healthy at Worship" guidelines have served us well. The limit of 25 people at weddings and funerals would apply to parishes hosting a funeral meal or a wedding reception. It would not apply to the wedding or funeral itself, which is carried out in the context of liturgical worship with the "Healthy at Worship" restrictions in place.

As we continue to study other recommendations of the Governor, I ask that you follow the guidelines as you continue to celebrate public liturgies, and I strongly urge parishes to continue to be diligent about masks, social distancing, and hygiene in light of increasing cases. You have the right and responsibility to require masks except for those who have medical issues that prevent them from wearing masks.

Thank you for your leadership. You are in my prayers.

Fraternally yours in our Lord,

Most Reverend Joseph E. Kurtz, D.D.  
Archbishop of Louisville