



OFFICE of the ARCHBISHOP

# ARCHDIOCESE OF LOUISVILLE

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March 12, 2021

Dear Father,

May God bless you during this holy Lenten season! I have one liturgical update and an update regarding summer picnics.

- 1) **Easter Fire:** At the recent Deacon Council meeting, some questions were asked about the Lucernarium and safe handling of taper candles by the assembly at the Easter Vigil. In light of these questions, I want to reiterate the guidance provided by the Office of Worship. The entire Lucernarium may be omitted. In this case, the liturgy begins with the lighting of the Paschal Candle, followed by a simple procession of the ministers. If you elect to include the Lucernarium, taper candles for members of the assembly need not be used. If they are used, it is recommended that they not be returned – parishioners can simply take them home.
- 2) **Summer Parish Picnics:** Current health guidelines from Frankfort stress the need for ongoing public health precautions and continued reduction in the size of large public gatherings. While vaccines are now available to help slow the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, transmission uncertainties remain as we approach the summer months; namely, the pace that vaccines will be administered in our communities and their efficacy against virus variants.

Public health officials continue to evaluate pandemic risk factors that will determine whether summer picnics/festivals can be safely operated. Based on information currently available, and in consultation with the Priests' Council of the Archdiocese, it is not anticipated that summer 2021 parish picnics and festivals will be able to return to the formats in use prior to COVID-19.

The following is a summary of our current understandings, expectations, and considerations for summer 2021. Future updates will be shared as additional information is learned.

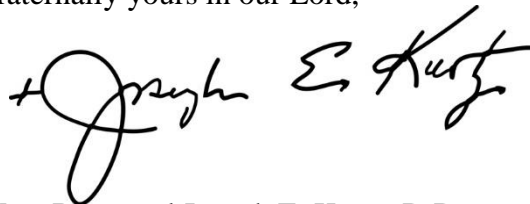
<b>Contracts</b>	For contracts that obligate a parish to pay for 2021 picnic/festival services, supplies, or other goods, the parish should request modified language that expressly allows for cancelation of the agreement with reasonable notice and without financial penalty.
<b>Venues</b>	Outdoor locations, as compared to indoors, allow for better ventilation and physical distancing and should be used to the greatest extent practical for event preparations and activities.
<b>Dinners</b>	Drive-thru, curbside, carryout, and delivery options are a reasonably safe option when exercising proper health and safety protocols. Limited dine-in and outdoor seating arrangements are currently permitted by Frankfort, but would require considerable ongoing monitoring and attention by event organizers/volunteers to meet public health requirements.

- Raffles** Department of Charitable Gaming regulations do not permit online raffle sales at this time. Raffle ticket sales would need to be conducted in traditional manners, such as mail, email, text, phone, or in-person. In-person raffle sales at a picnic/festival would need to include proper safety precautions.
- Booths** Traditional picnic/festival booths pose significant challenges as parishes would need to closely monitor and enforce social distance requirements and frequently sanitize surfaces in compliance with COVID-19 safety guidelines.
- Rides** Rides, inflatables, and similar offerings present inherent challenges with social distancing in waiting areas and while participating in the activities. How to properly sanitize surfaces after each use would also need to be carefully considered.
- Beer Gardens** The Department of Alcohol Beverage Control is issuing licenses at this time. Traditional beer gardens, however, raise several uncertainties as parishes would need to publicize, monitor, and enforce social distance requirements in compliance with COVID-19 public health and safety guidelines.
- Organizers** Picnic/festival organizers should be familiar with Frankfort's latest "Healthy at Work" guidelines for venues and event spaces. See [here](#). The document outlines minimum requirements for social distancing, cleaning and disinfecting, personal protective equipment, and training and safety. Public events such as picnics/festivals are subject to unannounced on-site inspections by health officials, and if deemed non-compliant with COVID-19 requirements, the event could be shut down.
- Volunteers** All picnic/festival volunteers should be trained on the public health safety measures that should be practiced in their roles. They also should be monitored during the event and reminded about the practice of these measures as necessary.
- Promotions** Event promotional materials should indicate the observance of public health safety measures for attendees, including but not limited to, face coverings and social distancing.

For any other questions on picnics or festivals, please contact Mr. Tink Guthrie, Vice Chancellor, at the Pastoral Center, 502-585-3291 or [tguthrie@archlou.org](mailto:tguthrie@archlou.org).

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

Faternally yours in our Lord,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph E. Kurtz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a stylized "K".

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