

# **St. Paul Funeral Covid-19 Policies**

**June 4, 2020**

These guidelines for celebrating a funeral reflect updated guidance by government officials, healthcare professionals, and ecclesial authorities. All local policies regarding safe distancing should be maintained. Parishes or pastors should follow the number or capacity of worshippers, safe distancing, face covering, or disinfecting guidelines contained in this document.

- Notify family/attendees in advance of the funeral about the safety procedures for participating in any liturgy during this pandemic.
- All attendees should wear masks or face coverings when not able to maintain safe distancing.
- Individuals with a temperature or presenting symptoms the day of the funeral should not attend.
- All pews and seating should be clearly marked for safe distancing. Funeral directors may seat attendees to maintain safe distancing.
- Worship aids are not allowed.
- Entry and exit doors are to be properly labeled and monitored. When possible, entry doors should be propped or held open before the liturgy and exit doors should be propped or held open at the end of the liturgy to prevent people from touching the door handles, knobs, or push plates.
- All pews, instruments, and furniture used during the liturgy must be disinfected after the liturgy.
- After all participants have left the church, the entry and exit church door handles and plates must be cleaned and disinfected.
- If unlocked and used, church restrooms should be cleaned and disinfected immediately after all have left the building.

## **Additional Volunteer Needs for Safety and Hospitality Greeter**

All attendees should be greeted outside the church by a greeter, whose responsibilities include:

- welcoming attendees to the church;
- ensuring each attendee is in good health and has not been exposed to COVID-19 in the last 14 days;
- ensuring all attendees are wearing masks or face covers when unable to maintain social distancing;
- sending each attendee to a predesignated spot to await seating from the usher or directing them to his or her seat; and

- managing any issues that may arise.
- Usher: Ushers may be stationed within the church to assist attendees in finding safe-distance appropriate seats and for leading a careful, socially distant exit from the church after the liturgy has concluded. He or she is responsible for:
  - having disinfectant available for all attendees' hands prior to entering the church;
  - escorting attendees to the next appropriate open pew for safe distancing;
  - ensuring that safe distancing guidelines are being followed throughout the liturgy;
  - at the end of the liturgy, coordinating a careful, controlled exit from the church, following all safe distancing standards.

### **Preparing the Church for a Funeral**

- Ensure social distance markers are in place for Introductory Rites and Processions
- Mark all pews according to safe distancing guidelines and capacity limits.
- Place the holy water and funeral pall near narthex, by the holy water stoop.
- If there is no server, the holy water and pall should be accessible by the presider
- If there is a server, it is to be an adult.
- The funeral director can assist with the pall, as well as the seating of the family.

### **Conducting the Funeral**

- Funeral bier is brought to the sanctuary by funeral director and one other person.
- A mask is not required of the presider, if he maintains six-foot distancing.
- If the funeral includes a Mass, the procession of gifts is omitted.
- At the conclusion, the presider instructs attendees to remain in their seats until the usher dismisses them, while maintaining safe distancing.

### **Disinfecting the Church and Instruments Afterwards**

- Remove any debris left behind by attendees and dispose of it properly.
- All pews and kneelers must be disinfected where anyone was present.
- Church door handles, knobs, and plates must be disinfected
- Once all attendees have left, restrooms and common areas must be disinfected.