

## Gatherings or Meetings Guidelines and Safety Measures

Effective July 25, 2020

You, as a parishioner at St. Patrick's, are our greatest gift! Your well-being is a major concern as we move through this unusual time of COVID-19. The Douglas County Health Department and Governor Ricketts raised some of the restrictions on gatherings; however, guidelines are still in place. St. Patrick's intends to adhere to all state and local Directed Health Measurers at a minimum.

St. Patrick's priority for gatherings will be Masses, liturgical gatherings, faith formation for all ages, children attending school, and children attending Religious Formation (RF). Please note that these guidelines may change at any time, and we will do our best to communicate details as this happens. **Outside of what is detailed below, the restrictions in effect prior to this update remain.**

### **A. People Who Should Not Attend Gatherings:**

1. The following should be encouraged to stay at home:
  - a. Elderly;
  - b. People with underlying medical conditions;
  - c. Family members who live with elderly people or those who are at risk;
  - d. People who have access to those at risk in nursing institutions;
  - e. People who have upper respiratory or flu like symptoms;
  - f. People who live with someone with upper respiratory or flu like symptoms;
  - g. People with COVID-19 or live with someone with COVID-19;
  - h. People who have been exposed to someone with COVID-19.

### **B. Protocol at Meetings/Events**

1. All meetings/events must be scheduled on FMX Scheduler on the Parish website and approved by Marty Cordes, Facility Manager. Due to space restrictions, cleaning protocol and other needs, meetings/events may be moved, rescheduled to room(s) other than originally requested, or denied with an explanation.
2. Cleaning measures must be taken at every gathering as has been done after Masses. Arrangements must be made ahead of time to allow for volunteers and supplies to be on hand.
3. Attendees are highly encouraged to wear masks. You may bring your own or if you do not have a mask, we will have disposable masks available for you. As recommended by our insurance company, and to help protect your health, St. Patrick's staff has been asked to wear masks at all meetings/events, etc. held at St. Patrick's.
4. All involved must maintain 6-foot social distancing, unless in the same party. A "party" will include members of a household who live together and

therefore may be seated together, but should maintain a social distance from other parties.

5. Children included in these gatherings must stay with their own families.

### **C. Types & Requirements of Non-Liturgical Gatherings**

1. Gatherings of faith formation and adult parish groups may be permitted under the heading and restrictions of "Gatherings".
2. After school activities will be restricted for at least the first quarter of school. This restriction will be re-evaluated on a regular basis.
3. Sporting activities at St. Patrick's are waiting for additional information from the NSAA before passing along any determinations.
4. Approved "gatherings" applies to any "confined indoor or outdoor space" (e.g., classrooms, meeting rooms, etc.), except to those categories explicitly listed elsewhere in the guidelines.
5. The total occupancy is or 50% (excluding staff) of rated occupancy (not to exceed 3,000).
6. Groups of people within the total occupancy (e.g., at individual tables) should not exceed eight individuals.
7. Six feet of separations between groups must be maintained.
8. Parades (processions), carnivals, midways, dances, and beer gardens are prohibited at this time.
9. Any events of more than 500 individuals need to be submitted beforehand to local health departments.
  - a. Any questions about whether an event fits these restrictions should be submitted to local health departments.
10. Parish halls and other "meeting halls" or "large event conference rooms" are allowed to be used.
11. Private homes can be used for parish meetings, so long as all other pertinent diocesan policy is observed.
12. At this time, we cannot allow for impromptu gatherings of any kind in the building. We need to be aware of spaces where people gather to allow for cleaning after they leave.
13. St. Patrick's is highly encouraging the wearing of masks at gatherings. If you do not have a mask, one will be available. (Some gatherings may require a mask, so please watch for information regarding this.)

### **D. Youth Events**

1. Bearing in mind the rules on gatherings laid out above, parish youth events—excluding all overnight events—should follow the "Youth Day Camp Guidelines"
2. This applies to all events that are directed towards minors (i.e., under 19 years of age)

3. Key Considerations:

- a. Develop a schedule for cleaning of frequently touched surfaces;
- b. Minimize the sharing of supplies and equipment as much as possible;
- c. Face coverings should be worn by staff at all times except eating, and all children over the age of 2 should wear face coverings;
- d. Space seating at least six feet apart;
- e. Develop a plan for the use of space when children are not in a seated area (e.g., bathrooms, lines for meals, entering and exiting the building, etc.).