



DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

700 King Street West, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8P 1C7

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

MEMORANDUM

To: Priests, Deacons and Pastoral Ministers
From: Monsignor Murray J. Kroetsch, PH, VG, Chancellor
Date: 14 July 2021
Re: Revised Liturgical Norms for Ontario Step 3 Reopening Plan

As announced by Premier Ford, the Province is moving into Step 3 of the Reopening Plan effective July 16, 2021. Parishes are now able to make the following changes to our liturgical practice.

- We may now re-introduce or increase the number of liturgical ministers: Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion as needed, Altar Servers.
- Resume the dialogue with individual communicants as they approach the minister for Communion (The Body of Christ/Amen).
- Following consultation with medical advisors, reception of Holy Communion on the tongue is now permitted. However, those who wish to receive the Eucharist in this manner are to do so after all others have received Communion in the hand and are to receive Communion from the Priest. We are reminded that the normative posture for receiving Communion in Canada is standing.

(Pastor's Note: Reception of Communion on the tongue will be discussed by the pastoral team. Parishioners will be notified of a decision. Until then, communion is received on the hand.)

The following practices are not changed at this time:

- One-way movement for church entry and exit is retained.
- All who participate in the liturgy are to sanitize their hands before entering the church, to wear masks for the duration of the celebration and maintain physical distancing.
- Priests and Extraordinary Ministers of Communion must wear masks for the distribution of Communion.
- Music leadership is restricted to an instrumentalist and cantor only.
- The collection is to be received at the doors of the church, not during the Offertory.
- The dispensation from the Sunday Obligation remains in effect at this time.

Please note that the resumption of printed bulletins and the return of hymnals to the pews, and the re-introduction of choirs will not take place at this time. Decisions on these issues will be forthcoming as more information is provided by the government and health authorities.