

Catholic Diocese of Kyoto Precautionary measures against COVID-19 Guidelines to follow in conducting gatherings such as Mass

Each block in the Diocese of Kyoto's Sunday Masses celebration (*Para-liturgy*), meetings, catechisms etc., is to adopt the "***new normal***" as announced by the government and the three basic measures to prevent infection, ① Secure physical distancing, ② Wearing facemask, ③ and washing of hands. The faithful are also asked to avoid the "3 Cs" (Closed spaces with poor ventilation, Crowded places with many people nearby, Close-contact settings such as close range conversations). In failing to meet the requirements, the possibility to hold gatherings such as Masses celebration is not feasible. Depending on the situation and structure of each church, we would like to present some measures to consider.

1. ***COVID-19 precautionary measures in general***

- (1) Before using the church or the meeting room, first disinfect the doorknobs, seats, desks, etc. with disinfectant or alcohol. Do the same after use.
- (2) Put an alcohol at the entrance of the church or meeting room for the attendee to use for proper disinfection.
- (3) Do not use the "aspersorium (holy water font)" at the entrance of the church.
- (4) Avoid confining the church or the meeting room, ventilate it throughout the year according to its size.
- (5) For the attendee; 1) wear facemask, 2) observe 2m space as much as possible (designate seat to sit on), 3) refrain from singing or talking in a loud voice to prevent splash infection.
- (6) If you are an elderly with common illness (such as diabetes, heart disease, chronic obstructive respiratory disease or asthma, anti-cancer drug treatment), or if you have cold and anxious about your health condition, you may consider not attending the celebration.
- (7) Meetings (catechisms, church schools, etc.) should be limited to one hour.
- (8) No foods but only drinks are to be prepared for the meetings. Party is not yet allowed.

2. ***Offertory and Communion during Mass***

1. Host and wine (water) will not be offered.
2. Prepare the Host and wine near the altar in advance.
3. Cover the ciborium after putting necessary number of Host. Keep it covered during the Mass.
4. No hugging or shaking of hands during the "Greetings of Peace" just bow to each other while exchanging greetings.
5. The priest and lay minister should sanitize their hands before communion. Even the faithful should also disinfect their hands before Communion.
6. After the priest received the Holy Communion, he will face the faithful and say at once, "The Body of Christ," and the congregation responds "Amen." He will then **distribute the Holy Communion** to the faithful silently.
7. Communion "Under Both Kinds" (consecrated Host and Wine) is not allowed.
8. Please refrain from communion through the mouth (tongue) and do it by hand.

9. In order to shorten the Para-Liturgy or Liturgy of the Word with Communion and to prevent splash infection, songs during celebration are not sung. However, the commentator may sing the Responsorial Psalms and the Alleluia.

3. Bringing Holy Communion to the Sick

If you need to bring Holy Communion to the sick, follow the instructions of the priest in charge in the block and take the above precautionary measures to prevent infection.

以上