



### **Archdiocese of Toronto Guidance regarding Outdoor Liturgies – June 2021**

The celebration of the sacraments indoors is the preferred setting for liturgies in the Archdiocese of Toronto. The provincial reopening plan permits outdoor religious services in Step 1, with no capacity limit where distancing can be maintained. The following guidance is provided for parishes considering outdoor liturgies in these extraordinary circumstances:

- Parishes are under no obligation to hold outdoor liturgies. Parishes wishing to celebrate outdoor liturgies are permitted to do so where they can ensure physical distancing of at least 2 m or 6 ft. between those not living in the same household.
- Outdoor liturgies are permitted for Sunday Masses (including Saturday vigil) only. Weddings, funerals and baptisms may not be held outdoors.
- An appropriate altar must be set up in a suitable place. Care needs to be taken so that the sacred elements are protected from weather. All vessels to be used at Mass must be sanitized before and after Mass.
- Masks must be worn wherever physical distancing cannot be maintained. Masks must be worn by those presenting themselves for Holy Communion, following a similar procedure to receiving the Eucharist indoors during the period of pandemic.
- Priests and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion must wear masks when distributing Holy Communion or at any time where physical distancing cannot be maintained. They should sanitize their hands before and after distribution of the Eucharist.
- The number of ministers assisting at outdoor liturgical services should be kept to a minimum.
- Current liturgical restrictions remain in effect. This includes:
  - a) Suspension of the communal distribution of the Precious Blood
  - b) Holy Communion distributed in the hand only at this time
  - c) No physical contact during the sign of peace
  - d) Any worship aids must be one-time use only, disposed of after each service.
- Parishioners should be reminded of the importance not to gather or socialize before/after liturgies.
- Drive-in or other services where the faithful remain in their cars are discouraged.

Additional questions regarding outdoor liturgies can be directed to the Regional Bishop or the Office of Spiritual Affairs.