

Catholic Mutual... "CARES"

Best Practices for Drive-Up Offerings, Blessings and Confessions

- During this time of social distancing and the need to get creative in providing the ministry of the church, churches have turned to online masses and offering drive-thru confessions and blessings for parishioners. Please consider the following best practices to do your part in the reduction of the spread of COVID-19. As always, with any recommendations regarding this virus, please ensure you are first and foremost, following the guidelines of the CDC and/or mandates from your State Health Department. <https://www.cdc.gov/>.

Drive-Thru Confessions/Blessings

- An open-air confession/blessing is essential. Parishioner should remain in vehicle and Father will need to be seated a minimum of 6' away from the vehicle to maintain an appropriate and safe distance.
- Place traffic cones for drivers to follow and guide them to a stop where the confession/blessing will take place. Do not physically interact with parishioners in their vehicles.
- If there are volunteers or employees assisting clergy for traffic control, an adequate distance should be maintained to respect the sacrament of reconciliation between Father and the confessor. Cars should also be spaced apart to ensure the 6' distance is not encroached.

Should parishioners wish to provide an offering, encourage continued online giving as your preferred method of support. If your church does not have this arrangement, consider online donation and payment software which will provide secure online deposits directly on your website. Consult with your Arch/Diocesan representatives whom may be able to offer guidance on this. If online giving is not possible, the following guidelines should be followed:

- Use offertory baskets with extended handles to collect monies from vehicles to avoid contact while maintaining social distancing.
- Wear PPE (personal protective equipment), such as rubber gloves if handling cash/checks.
- Do not allow offerings to accumulate to large amounts during drive-up collections. The offerings should be frequently taken inside for counting purposes.
- Follow your same procedures for counting to include wearing personal protective equipment i.e., rubber gloves and maintaining a minimum of a 6 foot distance when doing so.
- Have hand sanitizer and/or disinfectant wipes readily available.
- Hands should be washed thoroughly (at least 20 seconds) after handling money.

Should you need any further assistance during this time, please do not hesitate to contact your Risk Management Representative.