

Serving the Sacraments during Social Distancing

1) Confession

- a. Over the phone or other means of remote communication?
- b. Concerning absolution?
 - i. Absolution is primarily the prayer, not the act of the stole on the head. In these difficult times, holding your hand over the head of the penitent when in person should be sufficient. If you are confessing a person over the phone, and they are your LOCAL parishioner, you may give the prayer of absolution over the phone. However, those who are doing long distance confessions, where there is no hope of future contact before reception of Holy Communion absolution is not to be given.

2) Anointings with Oil

- a. DO NOT USE AN ANOINTING BRUSH
- b. Instead use 1 cotton swab (q-tip) per person
- c. Place used cotton swabs after anointing in separate ziplock bag and burn
- d. Pour remaining oil in lampada and burn
- e. Disinfect oil container inside and out

3) Veneration of Holy Items including Holy Icons & Priestly Blessings

- a. Disinfect before every service all holy items usually venerated
- b. Communicate in word and in writing (post in entryway of church) for the faithful to not touch the icons or Holy items with their mouth or hands
- c. Do not offer your hand to be kissed for a blessing

4) Communion

- a. DO NOT LET the CHALICE be KISSED
- b. WASH YOUR HANDS BEFORE AND AFTER HANDLING ALL HOLY VESSELS
- c. Communion Cloths and Chalice cleaned after each Liturgy
 - i. Use boiling water
 - ii. Use boiling water to clean the chalice
 - iii. Water disposed of in a sacramental sink, next to church, near graves, where the ground cannot be walked on

5) Baptism

- a. Gathering limited to Godparents, family, friends invited
 - i. **10 people or less** at the service in the Church
 - ii. limit **includes** the Priest, other clergy & servers
- b. Remote Baptism
 - i. If an emergency baptism is needed it is done on location with immediate family DO NOT TRANSPORT the child
 - ii. Baptismal Water to be disposed of same as noted above
- c. Cleaning & Sanitizing
 - i. The font is to be disinfected before and after the baptism
 - ii. How to anoint with Holy Chrism?
 - a. Follow Directives for Anointing
 2. Disinfecting Cross & Gospel immediately before offering for veneration, WITH EACH PERSON

6) Unction

- a. Same directives as anointing with Holy Chrism

+ David,
+ David, Archbishop of Sitka, and Alaska Directives: 3/17/2020

