OFFICE OF WORSHIP

MEMORANDUM

Date: June 19, 2020
To: All Parishes and Institutions of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis
From: Reverend Tom Margevičius, Director, Office of Worship
Re: Chrism Mass; Confirmations; Funeral Luncheons; Variable Practices.

I. Chrism Mass
As Archbishop Hebda indicated in a June 16 letter, this year’s Chrism Mass will be celebrated Thursday, July 30. In addition to the Mass, clergy can pick up fresh oils, share fraternal time, and discuss various topics in a safe socially-distant manner. More details on exact time, location, and format are forthcoming.

II. Confirmations, Chrism, and Other Oils
Many priests expressed relief at the ability to confirm validly with a cotton swab (as mentioned in the June 9 memo), which not only makes sanitization easier, but also saves on chrism oil. Nevertheless, if your parish does not have enough chrism to get you through the end of July, you may (a) use leftover chrism from previous years; (b) borrow some from a neighboring parish; or (c) request some from Laurinda Irwin in the Office of Worship irwinl@archspm.org. Contact her with the number of candidates you plan to confirm and to arrange picking up the oil.
In addition, ALL parishes should email Laurinda to tell her how much of each NEW oil you will need for the 2020-2021 season; they come in 1-oz. and 4-oz. bottles. If she does not hear from a parish she will assume that one 1-oz. bottle of each will be sufficient. You will not be able to change the amount you pick up on the day of the Chrism Mass.

III. Luncheons at Funerals, Weddings, First Communions, etc.
A Minnesota Department of Health June 12 document Guidance for Providing Food also now permits serving food at events such as funeral luncheons. Note that due to the less-controlled nature of such luncheons, the maximum number of attendees is 25% of the normal seating capacity of the space or 250 persons (whichever is less). Parishes are urged to examine carefully whether they have the resources to maintain adequate sanitization and social distancing during these events; if they do not, there is no obligation to resume serving food at this time.
IV. Variable Social Distance Practices
Parishes differ widely in their demographics and resources, and consequently in how they can best implement Archdiocesan social distancing directives. Some parishes have many high-risk members, others have relatively few; some churches are better ventilated than others. Some have many staff and volunteers who are well-trained for extra sanitizing and crowd control, while others lack these resources. Pastors and Parochial Administrators, in collaboration with business administrators and other staff, have the obligation to develop, enact, and maintain the COVID-19 Preparedness Plan, both for liturgical practices and the parish at large, and the Plan should be tailored to each parish. In you have any liturgical questions or suggestions continue to send them to me margeviciust@archspm.org.