Phase 3: Resuming Broader Parish Ministries
Updated Nov. 12 2020

1. **Procedures:** Phase 3 will involve resuming parish ministry activities beyond public worship on a limited basis. These activities would include, but are not limited to, receptions, luncheons, social gatherings, and meetings larger than 10 people. During phase 3 initial gatherings will be limited to 100 people or less, with the ability to expand based on the public health situation.
2. **Additional Considerations:** Non-worship functions are relegated to the final regathering stage due to the fact that these present the same risk factors as public worship, but are not as vital to the spiritual life of parishioners.
   a. Masks are required at all parish functions for participants over the age of five, who do not have a medical or psychological condition prohibiting mask. Parishes should have extra face coverings on hand outside parish entrances.
   b. During phase 3, all gatherings should practice appropriate social distancing and hygienic practices that lower the risk of spreading COVID-19.
   c. Parishes should evaluate various risk factors with each gathering, and might discern that some are safer and can begin sooner than others. For example, the number and age of participants, the percentage of guests attending from out of town, and the length of gatherings all create variations in risk.
   d. When a parish space is rented by an outside group, user agreements should articulate social distancing and hygienic expectations and be agreed upon prior to reserving space.
   e. All parish events scheduled for phase 3 will be conditional, dependent on public health conditions.
3. **Timeline for Phase 3:** The diocese will give permission for counties to move into phase 3 after two criteria are met:
   a. A parish must already be in phase 2.
   b. In consultation with medical experts, the diocese discerns that community spread has diminished to the point that social gatherings and other functions can resume in relative safety.