

# OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

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DIocese OF BRIDGEPORT  
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To: All Pastors, Administrators and Priest Moderators  
From: Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano  
Re: Change in Capacity Requirements for Worship  
Date: Monday, February 8, 2021

As you know, Governor Lamont issued Executive Order No. 10 on Thursday, February 4, removing the cap of 100 people for indoor religious gatherings. It is important to note, however, that this change does not change the pre-existing requirement that all existing safety protocols be observed when people gather for worship.

Specifically, this means the following:

1. Effective immediately, Mass capacity cannot exceed 50% capacity.
2. All persons in the congregation must wear masks.
3. There must be six feet of space in all directions between individuals or groups not from the same household at every liturgical celebration.

While this change will not have a material effect upon those church buildings whose capacity is small, this modification of the state mandate will allow our larger church buildings to accommodate a larger congregation at each celebration of Mass.

Practically, this change also means that every Church building will have its own, specific “maximum” capacity number, dependent upon the actual seating capacity of the building. For most parishes that can seat people in every other pew, maximum capacity will range between twenty and twenty-five percent because of the social distancing restrictions that remain in place. It is imperative that you calculate this “maximum” number and observe it without exception.

Again, I ask your cooperation when adjusting your seating capacity to observe all the safety protocols that have maintained the safety of our people. If we wish to be successful in our future attempts to invite more people to return to Sunday Mass, it is imperative that we do everything in our power to maintain the safety of our people. Many thanks for your patience and cooperation as we continue to meet the challenges created by the pandemic.