

Journey Forward Guidelines – Addendum 1

Live Streaming Teams and Holy Baptism

July 8, 2020

This addendum is in addition to the Journey Forward guidelines and assumes familiarity with them.

A. Live Streaming Teams

1. Live streaming teams can include as many as 10 persons in the building, though should still be kept to as few as possible within that number.
2. All Journey Forward Guidelines, including those regarding face coverings, distancing, and sanitizing, should be followed by those gathered to produce a live streamed or recorded service.
3. Live streamed and recorded services should consider modeling Journey Forward Guidelines as much as possible, especially if in-person worship is also taking place or anticipated.

B. Holy Baptism guidelines – outdoor services

1. All current outdoor in-person guidelines from the Journey Forward document are in effect for these services, including submitting a planning form in advance to the Bishop's Office. Please identify the font or basin layout in the diagram of the worship space.
2. Holy Baptism may be provided **only at outdoor services** in these guidelines. A temporary basin or vessel should be set up for the outdoor baptism.
3. When Holy Baptism is in use as part of outdoor in-person worship, the number of those present should be limited to **100 or fewer persons**, which is a lower number than other outdoor services. It is appropriate and encouraged that the baptism be live streamed or otherwise video recorded and shared with the congregation.
4. The Candidate for Baptism (or the parents, if a child) should be instructed clearly **prior to the service** that the officiant will be closer than 6 feet during the pouring of the water and that the Celebrant will necessarily touch the forehead of the Candidate at the signing of the cross (with Chrism, if that is parish practice). The Candidate (or the parents) should assent to these exceptions to the health and safety protocols prior to the service and provide that assent expressly **in an email or in writing**.
5. If conducting multiple baptisms in one service, please recognize that this creates a greater risk. In that case, make certain that new water is used for each baptism, unless the Candidates are from the same household.

6. The Celebrant should remain masked throughout the baptism and should wash hands for 20 seconds with soap and water and/or use hand sanitizer directly before the baptism (water) portion of the rite and after the completion of the baptism itself.
7. When baptizing a child, a member of the child's household, such as a parent or other family member, should hold the baptismal candidate over the font or basin being used for baptism. **Only these three individuals should be at the font or basin: Celebrant, Candidate, and one family member of the Candidate, if they need someone to hold them;** all others should be at least 6 feet distance from the baptism. This instruction is to comply with New Jersey Governor's Executive Orders, that requires distancing between individuals if not in the same household. An exception is made for religious purposes, but that only covers the 2-3 people mentioned here.
8. If pouring water over the Candidate, rather than immersion, use a shell or some other vessel, whenever possible, to pour the water onto the Baptismal Candidate, rather than the hand of the Celebrant.
9. Be sure to set aside enough space around the font or basin to reduce crowding and enable 6 feet or more of distance between participants from different households.

Note: As with all guidelines, these are not mandates. The Bishop may revise or rescind these guidelines with short notice. It is important that participants be made aware of this possibility. Scheduling a baptism does not guarantee that it will be possible to actually have the baptism on that date, especially if the governor's office changes state requirements or if the priest decides in consultation with the rest of the Vestry that keeping a scheduled date is not sufficiently safe.