BEST PRACTICES FOR RESUMING CONGREGATIONAL SINGING
DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO | MAY 1, 2021

Below you will find some best practices for resuming singing at liturgy. To summarize: extended hymn singing by the congregation poses the greatest risk; singing short pieces of ritual music poses little risk.

Opening: The best practice to begin the Mass is the use of a short antiphon sung by the assembly with the cantor singing psalm verses. This remains the preferred option in the official liturgical books.

If a familiar hymn or song is chosen, only what is necessary should be sung. One option would be to finish the hymn or song at closing.

Gloria: The best practice for the singing of the Gloria at this time is to use an unfamiliar setting where the assembly sings a repeated refrain quoting the Song of the Angels found at Luke 2:14. Through-composed settings (where the congregation sings everything) should be avoided.

Psalm: The Responsorial Psalm may be sung as indicated at #61 in the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal.*

Gospel Acclamation: The Gospel Acclamation may be sung as indicated at #62 in the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal.*

Preparation of the Gifts: Because there is no Presentation of Gifts at this time, the two best practices are silence or an instrumental improvisation which can be concluded gracefully as the priest finishes washing his hands.

Eucharistic Acclamations: These short acclamations may be sung to a familiar setting. Settings which repeat the text of the Mystery of Faith and extended settings of the Amen should be avoided.

Lamb of God: The Lamb of God should conclude after the host is broken and the vessels prepared for Communion. Extended settings of this litany should be avoided.

Communion: Because people remove their masks at this time, the best practice is to use instrumental music, a vocal solo or some combination thereof.

Closing: Instrumental music is the best practice (there is no Closing Hymn for Mass indicated in the *Roman Missal*; it is simply custom.)

For another option for closing, see "opening."