



DIOCESE of OWENSBORO

## GUIDELINES *for the* CELEBRATION of POPULAR DEVOTIONS

As a reminder, all current diocesan guidelines for celebrating the liturgy and gatherings outside of the liturgy are in place. Those can be found [here](#). Below are some suggestions and guidelines concerning upcoming popular devotions that seek to nourish the devotion of the faithful while maintaining a safe environment so that they do not become occasions where illness is spread.

### **Novena in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe**

It is a beautiful tradition in many places and parishes to pray the Rosary in community for nine days leading up to December 12<sup>th</sup>. Given the current reality and ongoing threat of the pandemic, here we offer some recommendations in order to keep everyone safe.

- 1) We strongly recommend not gathering as a parish community in homes for praying the rosary, bible reflections and fellowship. Various families gathered together, crowded in homes and in close proximity can only increase the risk of infection.
- 2) Parishes could provide resources for those who live in the same household to pray the novena in their own homes.
- 3) We do encourage the rosary be prayed as a community in open spaces on parish grounds where possible. In communal areas where proper distancing is possible. Masks must be worn.
- 4) Scheduling rosaries to be prayed inside the Church or Parish Halls at certain times is another option. Observing the 50% limit capacity applies and masks must be worn.
- 5) Making use of technology such as Zoom or Facebook live have become a very useful tools to consider.
- 6) Open air processions would also need to ensure social distancing and the use of masks is still recommended.

### **Mañanitas**

A tradition in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12<sup>th</sup> unfortunately will not be able to be celebrated because of the Kentucky state and diocesan mandate that congregational singing at this time is not safe and would increase the risk of spreading infection.

### **December 12, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe**

Even though in the United States this liturgical celebration is a feast, many are accustomed to it being a Solemnity in their home countries. In many parishes it is the most attended celebration of the year.

- 1) The same limit of 50% capacity and mandatory masks still apply at this Mass.

- 2) For those parishes where there is usually a large crowd at this celebration, you may consider scheduling several Masses throughout the day to help with the required social distancing in the church.

## **Posadas in preparation for Christmas**

These are nine evenings of reflection on the mystery of the Nativity from December 16th to 24th. Given the current reality and ongoing threat of the pandemic, here we offer some recommendations in order to keep everyone safe.

- 1) We strongly recommend not gathering as a parish community in homes for the Posadas reflections and fellowship. Various families gathered together, crowded in homes and in close proximity can only increase the risk of infection.
- 2) Parishes could provide resources for those who live in the same household to carry out the Posadas in their own homes.
- 3) We do encourage the Posadas be celebrated as a community in open spaces on parish grounds where possible. In communal areas where proper distancing is possible. Masks must be worn.
- 4) Scheduling the Posadas to be celebrated inside the Church or Parish Halls at certain times is another option. Observing the 50% limit capacity applies and masks must be worn.
- 5) Making use of technology such as Zoom or Facebook live have become a very useful tools to consider.

## **Fiestas**

These usually include potluck meals, crowded spaces and people in close proximity, can increase the risk of infection, and should not take place.