



FACTSHEET CHURCH LIFE IN ONE AND A HALF METER DISTANCE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH in THE NETHERLANDS

PROTOCOL FAITHFUL

This protocol is for anyone who comes to church to attend a celebration or otherwise use the church building. You are requested to follow these guidelines so that all attendees can celebrate together in dignity and safely.

General

All measures regarding the one and a half meter rule of hygiene - cleaning hands when entering the church, coughing and sneezing in elbow, use of paper tissues - and health - in case of cold complaints and / or high temperature to stay at home - must be strictly observed by all involved. Those who participate in celebrations do so at their own risk.

Liturgy

RESERVATIONS

- You must register in advance.

HYGIENE

- Upon entry, follow directions for placement and on exit, follow directions to safely exit.
- The body is not touched at the sign of the cross.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

- The triple sign of the cross before the gospel does not touch the body.

LITURGY OF THE ALTAR

- The faithful do not hold hands when praying the Lord's Prayer.
- Believers do not shake hands during sign of peace.
- Proceedings to bring to the altar fruits and vegetables or other gifts in procession should be avoided.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE HOLY COMMUNION

- You keep one and a half meters apart.
- You must clean your hands before receiving the Holy Communion.
- Children who do not receive communion are blessed at a distance of one and a half meters without touching.
- If you do not want to touch the Holy eucharist by hand, you can bring your own "corporal" on the hand and use it to bring the Holy Eucharist to the mouth. With regards to a corporal you can think of a small clean white handkerchief.

COLLECTION

- You can contribute to the collection through a collection box on a table at the exit, through a bank transfer, or through a gift app.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE AND RECONCILIATION

- You cannot confess in a confessional.
- You can confess in a room to be ventilated where the priest and you can sit 1.5 meters apart.

BAPTISM

- The administration of baptism is postponed.
- In case of emergency, the baptism can be administered by the parents at home (emergency baptism), in consultation with the parish priest. Then, at a later time, the other rites in the church (including the anointing) will follow.
- If baptism is not postponed, the rule of one and a half meters should be observed when administering the baptism.

CONFIRMATION

- Receiving confirmation is postponed.

FIRST COMMUNION

- Group reception of First Communion is postponed.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

- When anointing, the rule of one and a half meters is observed as much as possible.

WEDDING

- You can congratulate at wedding celebrations without physical contact and with due observance of the 1.5 meter rule. Not only in the church building, but also in the wedding procession keep a meter and a half away.

FUNERAL

- Condolences at funerals are done without physical contact and with due observance of the 1.5 meter rule.
- Not only in the church building, but also in the cemetery and in the funeral procession you keep a meter and a half away.

CHILD SERVICE OF THE WORD

- Children can go to their own program and guide immediately upon entering church.

MUSICAL AND VOCAL COOPERATION

- There is only singing by solo singing and there is no singing by the faithful during the celebration.

AFTER

- Having a chat in groups and drinking coffee in the church building is not possible given the applicable measures, but it can take place in a parish hall or in a garden near the church, where you can keep a distance of one and a half meters from each other.

Prayer and devotion

MARY

- The Virgin Mary statue, painting or icon may not be touched or kissed.
 - o When taking holy water from taps at Lourdes grottos and Marian chapels, you use your own bottle/jug.
 - o You must disinfect the tap / push button after use.

SAINTS

- The statue of saints, paintings, icons or reliquaries must not be touched or kissed.

CANDLES

- When burning candles and praying, follow the 1.5 meter rule.
- Payment for the candles should preferably be made cashless. o If that is not possible, you must disinfect your hands before paying.
- The candle is lit from another already burning candle. o If that is not possible, use your own lighter or match.

Other Activities

YOUTH WORK

- Young people come to the parish center as much as possible. When they are brought by their parents by car, the children walk to the parish center themselves.
- The leaders and young people have time to arrive and leave without extra contact moments.
- Leaders and young people go home immediately after the meeting.

DIACONAL WORK

- When distributing parcels at the food bank, the guidelines on distance and hygiene of the RIVM must be observed.
- You can make a contribution in the form of sustainable food products to be donated to the food bank as a token of charity.

PILGRIMAGE

- Pilgrimages in groups by bus can only take place if the buses have a distance of one and a half meters between the passengers wearing face masks, such as on public transport.
- If you cannot come to the place of pilgrimage, you can light a candle or request a prayer intention by telephone or e-mail.
- The (foreign) government travel regulations must be followed.
- Digital pilgrimage: through the online platform <https://sanctuarystreaming.eu/>, launched by the Commission of Episcopal Conferences of the EU (COMECE), Eucharistic celebrations and prayer services in Lourdes, Loreto, Czestochowa, Fátima and many others are streamed live.

MEETINGS

- As long as the 1.5 meter rule is in effect, meetings at home are advised against.