



DIOCESE OF ST. CATHARINES

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THE CHANCERY

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MEMO

To: All Clergy and Religious in the Diocese of St. Catharines

From: Bishop Gerard Bergie

Date: July 12, 2021

ONTARIO MOVING TO STEP 3 OF REOPENING on FRIDAY, JULY 16, 2021

The Government of Ontario announced today that the province will move to Step 3 of its reopening plan one week early, that is, on Friday, July 16 at 12:01 a.m. The province will remain in Step 3 for at least 21 days.

For Churches:

Expanded capacity for religious services, rites, ceremonies including weddings and funerals. No fixed capacity is mandated, however, since physical distancing requirements remain in place, indoor capacity is approximately one-third/33% capacity.

Requirements for masks or face coverings remain in place in indoor public settings throughout Step 3 and are likely to remain in place until at least September.

Contact tracing is to continue.

The dispensation from Sunday Mass attendance remains in effect.

Since face coverings are still required, there is no congregational singing in Step 3.

At the pastor's discretion, indoor meetings and gatherings may resume as long as attendees maintain physical distancing and wear face coverings.

Social gatherings and organized public events will be restricted to 25 people indoors and 100 people outdoors. Funeral service providers/cemeteries may have no capacity limit for attendance at cemetery services.