
REGULATIONS FOR THE USE OF A WORSHIP SITE WITHIN A PARISH OTHER THAN THE PARISH CHURCH

[Originally promulgated by Cardinal Bevilacqua on June 28, 2000; confirmed by Cardinal Rigali on November 1, 2006]

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia has established the following regulations regarding parishes which have a worship site in addition to the parish church. These regulations apply to all parish worship sites, other than the parish church, established on or after July 1, 2000. All other parishes having parish worship sites in addition to the parish church are to strive to conform to these regulations as circumstances permit.

1. The parish church is the primary place of worship of a particular parish where the sacraments and other religious services are celebrated throughout the liturgical year. The pastor is responsible to assure the availability of the parish church for the sacramental life of all the members of the parish community. A worship site other than the parish church, on the other hand, is a church situated within a parish's boundaries and used primarily for Sunday Mass.
2. Among the just causes for the establishment of a worship site in addition to the parish church are:
 - a. to allow greater accessibility of the faithful to liturgical services;
 - b. to reduce the inconvenience of the faithful traveling a great distance for worship; and,
 - c. to accommodate larger numbers of the faithful, particularly if the parish church is too small.
3. In keeping with canon law and existing archdiocesan guidelines, the Paschal Triduum, the sacraments of Christian Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, first Eucharist), weddings, and other sacramental rites (including first Penance, communal penance services, communal celebrations of the Anointing of the Sick, etc.) are to be celebrated in the parish church and are not to be celebrated in any other worship site within the parish that is in addition to the parish church.
4. One Mass is permitted to be celebrated on Sundays in a worship site within the parish in addition to those celebrated in the parish church. For pastoral reasons, and when sufficient priests are available, Mass may also be permitted in such a worship site on a holy day of obligation and/or on a weekday.
5. The Rite of Christian Funerals, including the Funeral Mass, may be permitted in a worship site within the parish other than the parish church.
6. For pastoral reasons, devotional services (such as ceremonies associated with a patronal feast, a public novena, stations of the cross, etc.) may also be permitted in a worship site within the parish other than the parish church.