



October 29, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Attached are important guidelines all parishes, schools and locations within the Diocese of Joliet are required to observe for all holiday and Holy Day celebrations through the upcoming Christmas/New Year season.

You will see that the guidelines are not new – they simply reiterate and affirm, within the context of the upcoming holidays, the protocols we have been following the past number of months (also attached for your reference). As you form and implement your holiday liturgical plans, I ask you to adhere to the guidelines in an effective and consistent manner throughout the Diocese. As always, if you have a question or need clarification about these guidelines, please contact Chris Nye or the COVID-19 Task Force at cnye@dioceaseofjoliet.org

It is important that you know that while serving as Vicar General in the Archdiocese of Chicago, I directed the development and implementation of our COVID-19 safety protocols. I take them very seriously and am committed to our collective adherence and strict compliance, because they are centered on keeping our people safe while ensuring that Holy Mass and the Sacraments remain available to everyone.

As experts are reporting, the recent number of cases and deaths continues to spike as we come into the flu season as well. Many of us understandably are feeling fatigued, overwhelmed and perhaps even disheartened. Someone recently commented that COVID-19 robbed us of our Easter celebrations and would likely take away our Christmas, as well. However, through it all we remain as people of hope and light through Jesus Christ.

Having served as your Bishop for one month now, I thank you all for your ongoing adherence to the safety guidelines, as well as your leadership and dedication to the Diocese, to one another and to the people of God.

With All Saints' Day upon us, let us turn to the communion of saints for their intercession as we pray for an end to this pandemic and for one another as we approach these Holy Days.

Paz y Bien,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ronald A. Hicks". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Most Reverend Ronald A. Hicks
Bishop of Joliet