



Revisions to Diocese of Joliet COVID-19 Mitigation Protocols

February 17, 2022

With the state of Illinois lifting the mask mandate for indoor public spaces on February 28, the Diocese of Joliet will revise its protocols and lift restrictions. The following guidelines affect all church and office activities; schools and religious education continue to follow their own requirements.

Effective February 28:

- Masks are recommended but not required in church and office settings.
 - Everyone should be respectful of others who may or may not choose to wear masks.
 - If possible, parishes should consider designating special seating areas for those who wish to maintain additional precautions such as social distancing or mask-wearing.
- Communion shall still be provided only via the host.
 - Communion in the hand is the norm.
 - Pastors have discretion as to whether or not Communion shall be provided on the tongue at their parish.
 - If Communion is provided on the tongue, the previous protocols are still required: Sanitize between communicants and dispense only after those who have received in the hand are finished.
 - There is no Communion in the cup.
- Holy water may return to the fonts.
- Collection baskets may be passed through the congregation.
- Food at church activities is up to the pastor's discretion.
- Congregation may make whatever Sign of Peace they are comfortable with.
- Restrictions are removed from musicians, but masks are still recommended.
- Previously issued isolation and quarantine procedures for close contact or illness remain in effect.
- For now dispensation still remains in place.

As always if there is a change to the general COVID-19 levels, we may reinstitute protocols as necessary to keep everyone safe.