

I remain grateful for all of you who have worked tirelessly to continue the mission of Christ throughout the many hardships of the pandemic. I want to thank you in advance and assure you of my prayers as we move into the post-pandemic time and encourage the faithful to their full and active participation in the Eucharist and the life of the Church. As we enter this new period, I ask that you use patience; kindness and understanding with all those you encounter as well as ensure your own good health and well-being.

Pastors and others should presume people's good will in following these directives.

May God continue to bless you and those you love as you do your best to provide for the spiritual and pastoral needs of those entrusted to your care.

Bishop Edward C. Malesic

These guidelines take effect June 2, 2021

1. **Facemasks** are no longer required but are strongly suggested for those who have not yet received the vaccine or are otherwise vulnerable. Respect is to be shown to those following CDC and state and local guidelines, as well as for those, who for personal reasons, choose to continue to wear facemasks and practice social distancing.
2. **Social distancing** is no longer required. The use of all pews/seating areas is permitted.
3. The use of **Holy Water** fonts is permitted.
4. **Liturgical processions** and **offertory collections** are permitted.
5. The **Sign of Peace** among the faithful is permitted. It should be exchanged without physical contact between persons who are not of the same household or family.
6. **Liturgical ministers** (altar servers, lectors, ushers, musicians, cantors, choirs, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion) are permitted.
7. **Holy Communion** The distribution of the Precious Blood remains suspended until further notice. *It is highly recommended that one receive Holy Communion in the hand.*
8. **Hymnals** and other books may be returned to the pews.
9. Entrance **Hand Sanitizers** are still provided at the church entryways. Sanitizing one's space individually is no longer necessary.
10. **Miscellaneous**
 - Live Streaming of Masses should continue when possible.
 - Visitation to the homebound, hospitalized and nursing homes is permitted urging those visiting to use good hygiene and to refrain from visiting when they are not feeling well.
 - Care should be taken to continue following CDC, state, and local guidelines with regard to activities with children who have not yet been fully vaccinated.

Please continue to pray for a complete end to the pandemic, for all those who died from the pandemic and for those who have lost loved ones, employment or have been adversely impacted by the pandemic.