



Safety and Mask Policy from Archdiocesan COVID-19 Task Force — August 25, 2021

Based on the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), consultation from our team of medical advisors, and our Archdiocesan COVID-19 Task Force, we plan a return to largely normal, pre-pandemic operations while maintaining select safety protocols to ensure a healthy, in-person environment. Masks are now required for entry into Parish, Church, and School facilities.

As with last year's programming, we will continue to follow the same protocols set forth by the Archdiocese's Office for Catholic Schools.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR THE 2021/22 YEAR:

1. The safety and well-being of all religious education (RE) and youth ministry (YM) participants, staff and volunteers remain our top priorities
2. The progress of the COVID-19 pandemic in Illinois remains unpredictable. We continue to consult with public health, education, and civil authorities and modify requirements during the year as conditions, mandates and guidance change. We are committed to providing an integrated and balanced perspective.
3. We will regularly review the Framework and communicate updates to families in a full and timely manner.

FOR ALL MASSES AND OTHER LITURGIES CELEBRATED IN COOK COUNTY, THE FOLLOWING DIRECTIVES APPLY:

Masks must be worn by all participants for the duration of the Mass, with the following exceptions:

- **Presider:** When praying or preaching, the mask may be removed.
- **Readers:** When proclaiming the readings or announcing the petitions, the mask may be removed.
- **Cantors:** When leading hymns or proclaiming the Psalm, the mask may be removed.
- **Wind Instrumentalists:** When playing, the mask may be removed.

WHEN RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION:

- As the communicant approaches the priest or extraordinary minister, he/she receives the Host in the hand.
- The communicant steps six feet to the side, removes the strap from one ear of the mask or face covering, letting it hang from the other ear, uncovering the mouth, and consumes the Host.
- The communicant replaces the mask over the mouth and nose and returns to his/her seat.

All pastors, priests, deacons, and lay ministers throughout the Archdiocese are asked to follow the above measures for ministers and distribution of Communion as a safe practice and model of charitable behavior.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we adjust our Archdiocesan guidelines to best protect the health of all within our care.

Peace,
COVID-19 Task Force