



Diocese of Duluth

2830 East Fourth Street • Duluth, Minnesota 55812-1501 • Tel: (218) 724-9111 • Fax: (218) 724-1056

www.dioceseduluth.org

May 7, 2021

Dear Priests and Deacons,

Given Governor Walz's announcement of a timeline for ending COVID-19 restrictions in Minnesota detailed in the accompanying email, our Diocesan protocols will be adjusted accordingly.

Reminder: The obligation to attend Sunday Masses remains lifted. The Bishops of Minnesota will act together when putting the obligation back at a time to be determined.

Note: Masks (until July 1) are strongly encouraged but not expressly required. COVID-19 vaccination is strongly encouraged but not required for all who come to worship including priests, deacons, servers, lectors, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, music ministers and ushers.

The following adjustments may be taken at the discretion of the pastor/administrator:

Beginning on **May 22/23, 2021**, the Solemnity of Pentecost, congregational singing (**with hymnals**) assisted by a cantor or small schola is permitted.

Beginning on **May 28, 2021**:

Regarding the Church

- Social distancing signage may be taken down
- Hand sanitizer at the doors may be removed
- Sanitizing the pews after every Mass may be ended
- **Tapes cordoning off pews may be removed**
- Interior doors may be open or closed
- Holy water fonts may be filled

Regarding Parish Services and Groups

- Face-to-Face Confessions may resume
- Masses and Services to the elderly and infirm in hospitals and assisted living situations may resume
- Sacramental/funeral receptions, dinners and other social gatherings may take place
- Parish councils and boards may meet in-person

Regarding the Celebration of Mass

- Processionals and recessionals may resume
- Masks for priests, deacons, servers and ministers are not required when more than six (6) feet away from the congregation
- Servers, lectors and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion and ushers may be used
- Using a second corporal may be ended
- Holy Communion under both kinds may resume (at the pastor's discretion)
- Ushers may take up the collection
- The physical exchange of the Sign of Peace may resume

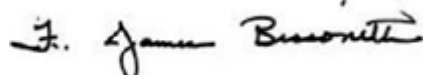
Regarding the Distribution of Holy Communion

- The two-line Communion procession may resume
- The faithful may receive either in the hand or on the tongue
- **After July 1**, masks need not be worn by the faithful or those distributing
- Priests, deacons, and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion may be asked to wear a mask and hand sanitize when distributing Holy Communion (at the pastor's discretion)

Beginning on July 1, 2021:

- Choirs may resume

Yours in Christ, our risen Lord,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. James Bissonette". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "J." and a long, sweeping underline.

Very Reverend James B. Bissonette
Diocesan Administrator