

Updated Diocese of Joliet COVID Protocols – Updated May 5, 2023

1. The Diocese of Joliet does not currently mandate that masks be worn.
 - a. Everyone has their own choice whether to be masked or not.
 - b. A pastor may, at his discretion, still have his Eucharistic ministers wear masks and sanitize.
2. Current protocols:
 - a. Water fonts may be filled and used.
 - b. Receiving Holy Communion in the hand no longer requires extra hand sanitizing on the part of the Communicant. However, the priest and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion should continue to sanitize their hands prior to distributing Communion.
 - c. Communion on the tongue is acceptable.
 - i. When distributing Holy Communion on the tongue, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion should still have hand sanitizer nearby and use it immediately in the event of contact with saliva.
 - d. Distributing/receiving Holy Communion from the cup remains suspended.
 - e. Concelebrants should proceed with the practice of intinction (dipping the host in the wine so a communicant receives both together.)
 - f. The sign of peace may be physically shared again.
3. Even though the pandemic has officially been downgraded, safeguards should still be maintained.
 - a. **If people do not feel well, they SHOULD NOT ATTEND services or gatherings.**
 - b. Airflow and ventilation are the KEY elements to prevent the spread of viruses so regular maintenance and filter changes should be scheduled.
4. Pastors may elect to provide separate seating areas in the church that accommodate the different sensitivities of parishioners.
5. Individuals with symptoms of COVID-19 or any illness should stay home while sick.
 - a. If you test positive for COVID-19, stay home for at least 5 days and isolate yourself from others in your home.
 - b. You are likely most infectious during these first 5 days.
 - c. Wear a high-quality mask if you must be around others at home and in public.
 - d. If you had no symptoms, you may end isolation after day 5.