



UPDATE ON THE CELEBRATION OF THE SACRED LITURGY
OFFICE FOR DIVINE WORSHIP
ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2022

The celebration of the Sacred Liturgy—the praise and worship of God by his people—is the greatest work of the Church carried out in all the parishes and institutions throughout the Archdiocese. With a genuine regard for the Mystery of Faith, it is also imperative that we continue to observe reasonable personal and corporate measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and its variants.

- Everyone is reminded of the irreplaceable need to be in-person for the celebration of Sunday Mass. At this point, it is no longer necessary to provide for the live streaming of all liturgical celebrations.
- Those who are sick, have a health risk, or are a primary caregiver, are excused from the obligation to assist at Mass on Sunday. Those who are legitimately excused should observe the Lord’s Day by reading the Word of God and spending some time in prayer
- The celebration of Holy Mass and all the Sacraments are to be carried out according to what is described in the liturgical books **without exception**. For Mass, however, in all circumstances:
 - The Invitation and the use of the Sign of Peace continue to be suspended until further notice. Alternate signs of peace should not be arbitrarily introduced.
 - The distribution of the Precious Blood continues to be suspended until further notice.
 - Priest concelebrants and assisting deacons receive the Blood of Christ typically by intinction until further notice.
- If your county has a current indoor mask mandate, such as the City of Philadelphia, the following is to be observed:
 - People are strongly encouraged to wear a face covering/mask, whether vaccinated or not, in the body of the church. There are to be no vaccination checkpoints and congregants are not to be asked to provide proof of vaccination.
 - The priest, deacon, and liturgical ministers are not to wear a face covering or mask in the sanctuary.
 - If a face covering or mask is worn, it is to be removed **before** the reception of the Body of Christ at the Communion of the Mass.

Thank you so very much for your generous assistance in observing these directives. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at fr.dgill@archphila.org.

In Christ, Father Dennis Gill, Director of the Office for Divine Worship