



**UPDATE ON THE CELEBRATION
OF THE SACRAMENTS FOR SCHOOL AGE CANDIDATES
OFFICE FOR DIVINE WORSHIP
ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA
MONDAY, JANUARY 31, 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.

The Conferral of Confirmation, First Penance and Reconciliation and the Reception of First Holy Communion are to be carried out in the manner prior to the pandemic. The most current *Liturgy Instruction Form for the Sacrament of Confirmation* is attached to this update.

Additionally, for the celebration of all three of these Sacraments, in conjunction with mandates currently in place for educational settings in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and its variants, the candidates are to wear a face covering as they process, assemble and participate in the Sacred Liturgy for the Sacraments. Sponsors for the Sacrament of Confirmation are strongly encouraged to wear a face covering.

In all instances, the face covering is removed before the reception of Holy Communion, the Body of Christ.

Everyone is reminded of the irreplaceable need to be in-person for the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy. At this point, it is no longer necessary to provide for the live streaming of all liturgical celebrations.

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