

HEALTH AND SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS – January 10, 2022

- All worshippers, age 2 and older and regardless of vaccination status are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings and to practice social distancing to protect themselves and others in churches. Because a parish community – and our society – requires mutual trust and a commitment to the common good, each individual is asked to take responsibility and make the best decisions to protect themselves as well as for others in the community. Parishes do not have the responsibility to verify who is and who is not vaccinated.
- All priests, deacons, and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC) are asked to continue to or reinstate the wearing of face coverings during the distribution of Holy Communion.
- Please remember the distribution of the Precious Blood is still prohibited at this time.
- Make sure hand sanitizer remains available at each entrance in ALL places where parishioners gather.
- Continue or reinstate reducing the number of “touching-points” as people enter by propping open doors or having a parish staff member and/or Minister of Hospitality open doors.
- Continue or reinstate reducing the number of “touching-points” during communal prayer and offering the Sign of Peace.
- Because of the minimal contagion on the surfaces of furniture and other hard surfaces, disinfecting between celebrations of Mass may not be necessary; however, those who wish to do so may continue or reinstate this practice.
- Any social celebrations and/or activities that involve food and beverage (e.g. coffee and doughnuts, funeral luncheons, group meals, youth ministry events, etc.) should follow any and ALL local health department guidance and those in attendance are encouraged to wear masks, regardless of vaccination status and practice social distancing.
- As previously published, parishes are reminded to – given the changing seasons and Michigan weather conditions – ensure all heating systems are operating properly and efficiently.
- Contact your local county health department on all public health and safety matters.

References:

- MDHHS Public Health Advisory 11.18.21: <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339--572726--,00.html>
- MDHHS COVID Updates (<https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus>)
- CDC <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>