



## UPDATED COVID-19 GUIDELINES AND PROTOCOLS

Issued January 13, 2022 and effective immediately until further notice

### I. GENERAL CLEANING/HYGENIC PROTOCOLS

- Regular hand sanitizing should continue; and special attention given to sanitizing before any interaction within the liturgy (e.g. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, ushers, gift- bearers)
- Sanitizers should be readily available for all serving in the Sanctuary, as well as for the Faithful
- Ablution and sanitizing stations are to be used during the distribution of Holy Communion, especially for reception on the tongue
- Rigorous cleaning of the Sanctuary and all common areas, as previously prescribed and recommended by the CDC
- Designated areas for social distancing are to be offered and maintained properly

### II. LITURGICAL GUIDELINES

#### OVERALL

- For the foreseeable future, it is recommended that we limit the use of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Readers, servers, and others who assist in the Mass.
- Suspend the procession with the Gifts of Bread, Wine and monetary offerings at the Preparation of the Gifts.
- The Sign of Peace should continue to be contact-less

#### MASKING

*To mitigate the spread of the coronavirus and other illnesses at this time of year, the following are strongly encouraged:*

- Ushers should be masked while performing any interactive duty, such as greeting, distribution of materials, taking up the collection, etc.
- All liturgical ministers should be masked when in close contact with others (i.e. in processions, or moving among those present at Mass). When reading, speaking or seated, masks are not required.
- Clergy should be masked specifically during: processions, distribution of Holy Communion, greeting parishioners after Mass. The Faithful are also encouraged to use masks as well.
- The Faithful are strongly encouraged to consider wearing masks while participating in Mass.

#### LIVE-STREAMING of SUNDAY AND VIGIL MASSES

- Each Parish should have at least one Mass that is live-streamed and readily accessible to the Faithful.

### III. PARISH ACTIVITIES

- Pastors are asked to review the current schedule to assess if it might be prudent to reschedule Parish activities until a future time when cases subside or the activity can be held outdoors. This would apply specifically to larger scale gatherings.
- Sanitary protocols, hand-washing, distancing, and masking should be strongly encouraged for all participants at all Parish Activities (including Faith Formation, Religious Education, Social Gatherings). Additionally, sanitizing stations should be well supplied and readily available.

*As always, please reinforce the idea that “if you are not feeling well, stay home”, which is the most effective means of mitigating the spread of disease, and encourage all to follow this principle.*