

Revised Liturgical Guidelines for the COVID-19 Pandemic (5/25/21)

Thank you for your ongoing service to the People of God through “prudent action and bold faith”. We are seeing hope for the end of the COVID pandemic as the numbers of infections go down, more of the faithful are being vaccinated, masking mandates are being lifted and a greater sense of normalcy is returning. In light of these changes, the Diocese has revised its guidance to parishes to continue the positive momentum. As such, the following are guidelines to help parishes within the Diocese of Green Bay to worship prayerfully and safely during the Sunday Mass and during other liturgies during this phase of COVID-19.

General Provisions

1. There remain no restrictions as to the percentages of people present for any given liturgy. If the number of people present for a liturgy potentially exceeds county or local restrictions, the pastor or pastoral leader should contact the Diocese for further consultation. All local and county regulations should be followed. Hand sanitizer and masks should remain near the entrances of the church. All those who are entering or exiting should be encouraged to perform proper hand hygiene. **All doors may be used for entrance or exit into the building. Temperatures are no longer required for entrance.**
3. **Holy water fonts may be used.**
4. **Greeting the faithful before and after Mass is encouraged.**
5. Masks are welcome remain highly encouraged for anyone who feels more comfortable/safer wearing one while attending Mass, or anyone who has not yet received a vaccine. We ask the priest and deacon before and after Mass to continue to wear masks until further notice to show compassion and allay fears of some parishioners, and masks should be worn by all who distribute Holy Communion.
6. **Pastors/pastoral leaders, in consultation with the data for their county and in agreement with their pastoral councils, should have a section of the Church reserved for those who wish to wear a mask and maintain social distancing.**
7. Hymnals, worship aids, and common use print materials may be used.
8. Hard surfaces should continue to be wiped down at the end of the weekend Masses with antibacterial cleaner.
9. Those participating in the various ministries of the Mass (readers, ushers, greeters...) may be required to wear masks at the pastor/pastoral leader’s discretion.

Specific Provisions for the Parts of the Mass

10. **Altar servers may serve for liturgies so long as they are properly trained to hold the book to the side so as to not be in direct line of speech to the priest or deacon.**
11. **Choirs are permitted but precautions should be taken to prevent potential spread such as proper distancing of 10ft between members of the choir and the faithful.**
12. **The sign of peace may occur.**
13. **Permission to celebrate Mass outdoors will again be granted. Please contact the Vicar for Canonical Services for further information and permissions.**

The Distribution of Holy Communion

14. The Precious Blood will not be distributed to the faithful. A deacon or concelebrant should not receive from the same cup as the celebrant. The celebrant could offer the chalice for the concelebrant to intinct and then should consume the Precious Blood and purify the vessel himself.
15. Extra-ordinary ministers of Holy Eucharist can be employed to assist in the distribution of Holy Communion. Those distributing Holy Communion should wear a mask and must use hand sanitizer before and after distribution.
 - Provisions should be made for those who are seated in a masking section and so that anyone who wishes to receive on the tongue may do so.
16. The faithful receive Holy Communion in the normal way. A single file line is encouraged, but there should be a distance of three feet between communicants if a double line is to occur.