

Archdiocesan Lifting of Covid Protocols

As summer approaches and danger from the Covid virus continues to subside, the Archdiocese is removing all remaining pandemic restrictions when participating in church services starting on the weekend of June 11th the Feast of Corpus Christi.

What will be kept:

Some practices that have proven helpful and have become a normal part of proceeding while at Mass will be retained:

- ~ advancing in single file during the Communion Procession and returning via the side aisles
- ~ collecting Offertory donations in the fixed Offertory Collection boxes at the Shrine exits rather than passing the collection basket thru the pews
- ~ touch-free Holy Water fonts will remain at the Shrine entrances.
- ~ hand sanitizing stations will remain available in key locations.
- ~ discretion is still urged when exchanging “Peace” with one another at Mass.
- ~ the Offertory Procession to the Sanctuary (*bread & wine*) will be restored.

What will end:

Eucharistic Ministers will no longer be wearing masks and will no longer be using hand sanitizer after distributing Communion to those who choose to receive Communion on their tongues; those who so choose to receive Communion, therefore, will no longer need to position themselves at the end of the Communion Procession out of an abundance of caution.

As in pre-Covid days, however, without much hand sanitizing, Eucharistic Ministers will again be passing forward all they have come in contact with from those in the Communion Procession. Those who need to be concerned about exposure like that might want to approach early-on in the procession for Communion, to limit their exposure to any transmittable agents that might be a danger to them or their loved ones.

Review of Communion etiquette:

As per the directives of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, the prescribed way of receiving Holy Communion in the United States, is to “solemnly advance in the Communion Procession, bowing slightly at the moment before receiving Holy Communion in the standing position.”

They also caution against the introduction of personal pieties into public worship – such demonstrations become a counter witness to the unity of our faith as fellow pilgrims advancing together toward the Lord.

As the old adage advises: “Let go of what’s gone but keep the lesson.”
