



## Diocese of Duluth

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May 7, 2021

Dear Priests and Deacons,

Given Governor Walz's announcement of a timeline for ending COVID-19 restrictions in Minnesota detailed in the accompanying email, our Diocesan protocols will be adjusted accordingly.

**Reminder: The obligation to attend Sunday Masses remains lifted. The Bishops of Minnesota will act together when putting the obligation back at a time to be determined.**

**Note: Masks (until July 1) are strongly encouraged but not expressly required. COVID-19 vaccination is strongly encouraged but not required for all who come to worship including priests, deacons, servers, lectors, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, music ministers and ushers.**

The following adjustments may be taken at the discretion of the pastor/administrator:

Beginning on **May 22/23, 2021**, the Solemnity of Pentecost, congregational singing (**with hymnals**) assisted by a cantor or small schola is permitted.

Beginning on **May 28, 2021**:

### Regarding the Church

- Social distancing signage may be taken down
- Hand sanitizer at the doors may be removed
- Sanitizing the pews after every Mass may be ended
- **Tapes cordoning off pews may be removed**
- Interior doors may be open or closed
- Holy water fonts may be filled

### Regarding Parish Services and Groups

- Face-to-Face Confessions may resume
- Masses and Services to the elderly and infirm in hospitals and assisted living situations may resume
- Sacramental/funeral receptions, dinners and other social gatherings may take place
- Parish councils and boards may meet in-person

### Regarding the Celebration of Mass

- Processionals and recessionals may resume
- Masks for priests, deacons, servers and ministers are not required when more than six (6) feet away from the congregation
- Servers, lectors and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion and ushers may be used
- Using a second corporal may be ended
- Holy Communion under both kinds may resume (at the pastor's discretion)
- Ushers may take up the collection
- The physical exchange of the Sign of Peace may resume

**Regarding the Distribution of Holy Communion**

- The two-line Communion procession may resume
- The faithful may receive either in the hand or on the tongue
- **After July 1**, masks need not be worn by the faithful or those distributing
- Priests, deacons, and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion may be asked to wear a mask and hand sanitize when distributing Holy Communion (at the pastor's discretion)

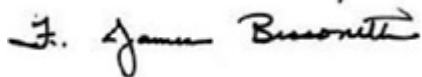
**Beginning on July 1, 2021:**

- Choirs may resume

Should you have any questions or concerns about these adjustments and how to apply them, please do not hesitate to contact me (218-591-3973). I am grateful for your unflagging support and understanding as we worked our way through the challenges of the past year.

Wishing you every blessing as we prepare for Bishop-elect Felton's ordination and installation as our next bishop and move forward together following the promptings of the Holy Spirit given to us at Pentecost, I remain,

Yours in Christ, our risen Lord,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. James Bissonette". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "J." and a long, sweeping underline.

Very Reverend James B. Bissonette  
Diocesan Administrator