

UPDATE TO COVID-19

Update: August 16, 2021

Summary

Due to the alarming increase of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations -- the following guidelines are to be implemented for the Diocese of St. Augustine by August 16, 2021.

We encourage everyone who is eligible and with the consultation of their medical doctor to receive a vaccination. Those who are ill or have severe underlying health conditions are encouraged to participate in the Mass via live stream from the safety of their homes.

1. Social Distancing:

- Those with serious health conditions should consult their physician before attending gatherings where contact with others could put them at risk.
- Social distancing should be maintained and observed by all when possible. Family members may sit together.

2. Masks:

- Because not all members of our communities are vaccinated (for COVID-19), and some people may have conditions that require them to use a mask (such as underlying medical conditions), it is strongly encouraged that all parishioners wear a mask during Mass.

3. Cleaning and disinfecting:

- Thorough and repeated cleaning of high-contact surfaces and objects should be maintained.
- Hand sanitizer to be available at all entrances

4. The Liturgy: *(Modified Phase I of the COVID-19 Safety Plan)*

- No missalettes and hymnals in the pews. *(The variants of COVID-19 are much more communicable and easier to spread to vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals. Vaccinated individuals can be carriers and infect others without being aware.)*
- There should be no physical contact during the sign of peace. It is recommended that Communion only be received in the hand.
If Communion is administered on the tongue:
 - the person waits until the end of Communion line
 - the Minister of Communion must sanitize their hands between communicants
 - Ministers required to wear masks during the distribution of Holy Communion
- Communion will only be under one species, the Body *(Priests & Deacons are to follow the directives designed for their ministry and role)*
- Offertory Collection will use stationary baskets at the entrance or use long-handled baskets.
- Choirs are recommended to wear masks unless they can socially distance.
- It is preferable to suspend the Offertory Procession.