



**THE DIOCESE OF CROOKSTON'S RETURN TO LITURGICAL PRACTICES:
GUIDANCE AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

EFFECTIVE: FRIDAY, MAY 28, 2021

CROOKSTON, MINNESOTA, May 21, 2021 – In light of recent updates to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) pandemic-related guidance, Diocese of Crookston parishes and entities shall adopt the following “universal” guidelines to mitigate COVID-19:

- Encourage and support vaccination efforts.
- Wear a face covering when recommended by MDH or CDC.
- Those not vaccinated should keep 6 feet of physical distance from other households when possible and follow the face covering recommendations of MDH/CDC.
- Regardless of vaccination status, wash hands frequently; follow guidance on quarantine if exposed to someone who has COVID-19; stay home if sick; follow testing recommendations when travelling, having COVID-19 symptoms, or when exposed to the virus; and work from home when necessary.

Regarding liturgical practices and protocols, please note the following:

- There remain no capacity limits for religious services.
- There is no requirement to wear masks nor keep six feet of physical distance between households, however, pastors in dialogue with parish leadership can choose to keep one area of worship space for those choosing to mask and distance themselves.
- Continue to maintain a regular schedule of sanitation, including high touch surfaces.
- Hand sanitizer should remain available at entryways.
- Holy water in fonts, stoups and receptacles is allowed.
- Singing remains permissible. Use of hymnals and other worship aids, such as prayer cards and booklets can be placed in pews.
- Collection plates and other items can be passed person to person.
- Physical touch at the Sign of Peace is permissible.
- Holy Communion under both species and on the tongue is permissible.
- Altar Servers and all other liturgical ministers are permissible.

MOST REVEREND RICHARD E. PATES
Apostolic Administrator
Diocese of Crookston