

Liturgical Guidelines
Applicable during phases 1-3
Diocese of Des Moines
Updated July 2, 2021

Anticipatory Measures

- All the faithful remain dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass until July 25th. In addition, those who have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 10 days, or have been exposed to the virus (considered 15 minutes within 6 feet of known or suspected COVID-19 case), or shown symptoms at any time in the previous 10 days are to stay home.
- Holy Water fonts may now be refilled
- Hand sanitizer may be made available to the faithful.
- Masks are optional. Parishioners who are unvaccinated are encouraged to use a mask¹ for the duration of Mass. Parishes should have extra face coverings on hand outside parish entrances.
- The other guidelines laid out in the general regathering guidelines document and cleaning document are assumed here.

Mass Itself

- A six feet social distance should be maintained between one family/household unit and another when individuals are not vaccinated.

Offertory and collection:

- Any offertory procession can now resume.
 - Where possible, the use of a chalice pall or other covering for the presider's chalice is encouraged.
 - A lidded ciborium is to be preferred over an open bowl for the peoples' hosts.
 - The pastor's host should be on its own paten. The ciborium with the people's hosts should be placed at a distance. If a paten/bowl for the people must be used, it should be covered with a pall.²
 - Collections may resume via poll or passed basket.

Distribution of Holy Communion:

- Any concelebrants should receive via intinction from a separate chalice from the celebrant's. If deacons receive both Sacred Species, they should receive the Precious Blood by intinction only. (The rubrics indicate the celebrant does NOT intinct.)
- For the distribution of Holy Communion: Communion ministers should use sanitizer before and after they personally receive Holy Communion and have not yet distributed Holy Communion, and again at the conclusion of the distribution of Holy Communion.

¹ When this document refers to masks, medical masks, cloth face coverings, or face shields are all implied as sufficient.

² This is to avoid cross contamination. The presider has to touch his host multiple times during the celebration of Mass. The pall/purificator is to prevent any contamination from a sneeze.

- At all times proper reverence must be shown to the Blessed Sacrament: Communion ministers--including clergy--are not permitted to wear gloves.
- Bishop Joensen requests that the faithful only receive Holy Communion on the hand.
 - Personal piety must subordinate in this moment to the common good.
 - All who receive on the tongue should participate in a single communion line.
 - The minister should sanitize their fingers after persons receive on the tongue.
 - In larger parishes, a solution might be to consider having one specific station for those who strongly desire to receive on the tongue.
- When a masked parishioner is approaching communion, they should:
 - bow
 - place their hands out in the usual manner
 - after responding with the usual “Amen,” step to the side, pull mask down, place communion in their mouth, and pull the mask back up.
 - The consecrated Host must NOT be taken back to the pew to be consumed.
- Distribution from the chalice to the assembly is forbidden. Special exception may be made for those with extreme gluten intolerance with the consultation of the pastor.

After Mass

- Worship space and bathrooms should be cleaned and disinfected at least once a week, and after any positive COVID test.