

Our Lady of the Pines Catholic Church

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14 May 2021

Updated COVID-19 Protocols for Our Lady of the Pines Catholic Church

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

Over the last two weeks, our Bishop, Most Rev. David L. Toups, S.Th.D., has made some important decisions regarding COVID-19 protocols in our diocese in his letters dated April 23, 2021ⁱ and May 14, 2021.ⁱⁱ In keeping with the bishop's instructions the following changes will be effective at our parish beginning on the Solemnity of Pentecost, May 22-23, 2021.

- The Sunday Mass obligation is reinstated as of the Solemnity of Pentecost for those 65 and younger who are not at risk for severe illness, are not currently sick, homebound, or infirmed, or caring for the sick, homebound or infirmed, or are pregnant.ⁱⁱⁱ
- The church will continue to be sanitized once a week in keeping with the CDC's recent study about the rarity of spreading COVID-19 through surface contact.
- Masks continue to be encouraged, but in keeping with the CDC guidelines, will no longer be required—especially for those who have already been fully vaccinated.
- The cry room will be specially designated for those with preexisting health conditions. Masks and social distancing will be required in the cry room.
- The regular use of hymnals and altar servers will be encouraged.
- Temperatures will no longer be checked at the doors of the church.

Thank you for your cooperation over the last 18 months as we have done all that we can to keep our parish community safe.

Rev. Joseph R. Sigur, STL
Parochial Vicar

ⁱ <https://www.dioceseofbmt.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Letter-and-Decree-lifting-General-Dispensation-.pdf>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.dioceseofbmt.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Welcome-Back-Letter-Post-Pandemic.pdf>