



**BISHOP OF STEUBENVILLE**

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March 23, 2021

Dear Father,

In my letter of March 10 in which I granted permission for the optional resumption of the exchange of the sign of peace at Mass, I wrote that I was hopeful that it would be the first of additional modifications to the *Norms for the Resumption of Public Masses*.

I have received many requests to allow hymnals and missalettes to be placed back in the pews for the faithful to use. As we approach Palm Sunday and Good Friday, those requests have increased. I have consulted with several people, including medical professionals, and based on the requests and my consultations, I have today modified the diocesan *Norms*.

**As of tomorrow, at the judgment of the Pastor, hymnals, missalettes, and other liturgical aids may be placed back in the pews and made available to the faithful as they were before the COVID-19 pandemic began.** Again, I make this option available to you and leave to each Pastor the decision of whether to make use of the option.

Please know of my prayers for you as we approach Holy Week and prepare to celebrate the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Our Lord. Entrusting you and your communities to the intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I remain

Fraternally yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Jeffrey M. Monforton".

Most Reverend Jeffrey M. Monforton  
Bishop of Steubenville