

TRIUMPH OF THE HOLY CROSS PARISH  
**COVID-19 UPDATES BASED ON DIOCESAN DIRECTIVES**

REVISED SEPTEMBER 2, 2021

---

**FALL COVID DIRECTIVES FOR PARISH FAITH FORMATION AND YOUTH MINISTRY, PK-12**

**CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH - SEPTEMBER 2, 2021**

“...Honoring the Pennsylvania Department of Health’s most recent directives, Bishop Zubik has confirmed that all programs for students PK-12, in both schools and parishes, will follow universal mask wearing, effective now. This means that all persons, child through adult, whether vaccinated or not, are to wear masks indoors during programming, unless restricted by developmental or health issues. Masks are not required outdoors or when students are engaged in active sports or games (whether those games/sports are indoors or outdoors). Social distancing is to be observed indoors to the greatest extent possible, with a minimum spacing of 3 feet. These policies will be re-evaluated on an on-going basis, according to COVID transmission levels and directives of health authorities.

**(Note: The mask wearing policy for faith formation/youth ministry/Catholic schools is different than the current policy for parish Masses. During regularly scheduled parish Masses, mask wearing is optional. Should students attend any of these regularly scheduled Masses as a group and as a part of their religious education/YM program, they are to wear masks.)”**

Judene Indovina, Ed.D., Cand.  
Director of Catholic Identity  
Secretariat for Catholic Education and Evangelization

=====

**MASKS REQUIRED IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OF THE DIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH FOR START OF 2021-2022 YEAR**

**CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH – AUGUST 17, 2021**

*Action based on advice from local medical experts to support goal of in-person learning*

Schools of the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh will begin the 2021-2022 school year with mandatory masking indoors for students, faculty, and staff -- regardless of vaccination status -- unless medical or developmental conditions prohibit their use.

**For full article go to: <https://diopitt.org/news/masks-required-in-catholic-schools-of-the-diocese-of-pittsburgh-for-start-of-2021-2022-year>**

Michelle A. Peduto  
Director of Catholic Schools

=====

**COVID PROCEDURES UPDATES FOR THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH**

**CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH – AUGUST 6, 2021**

As variants of the COVID-19 virus continue to spread, the Diocese of Pittsburgh is updating safety procedures at Mass and Bishop David Zubik is urging everyone to get vaccinated and to wear masks when indoors with others. All ministers of the Eucharist, ushers and greeters and servers must wear masks while engaging in their ministries, regardless of their vaccination status.

**For full article go to: <https://diopitt.org/news/covid-procedures-updates-for-the-catholic-diocese-of-pittsburgh>**

## COVID-19 UPDATES BASED ON DIOCESAN DIRECTIVES

REVISED SEPTEMBER 2, 2021

### As of July 1, 2021, what restrictions have been lifted?

In continued alignment with local, state, and federal guidance and directives, with the lifting of the mask mandate in the State of Pennsylvania:

- Mask-wearing is no longer required in Diocese of Pittsburgh churches \*
- Until further notice, distribution of Holy Communion is to be continued under one species, i.e. the Sacred Host.
- Confessions may again be heard in confessionals, at the priest's discretion.
- The "sign of peace" may be reintroduced within the Mass.
- As announced previously, holy water may return to the fonts.

\* Please note that mask wearing policy for faith formation/youth ministry/Catholic schools is different than the current policy for parish Masses. During regularly scheduled parish Masses, mask wearing is optional. Should students attend any of these regularly scheduled Masses as a group and as a part of their religious education/YM program, they are to wear masks.

### Will there still be an area designated for those who wish to wear a mask?

**Yes.** In each church we will maintain an area designated for those who wish to wear a mask and maintain a physical distance of 6 feet. This is the area to the left rear of the Church. Please note that if you chose to sit in this area, you must wear a mask.

### What other recent changes have been made?

- We have resumed the use of Holy Water.
- The offertory procession has resumed.
- The collection basket is being circulated throughout the pews.
- Worship aids are reused after every Mass. Please continue to place your worship aid in the designated bins at each exit, so that we can redistribute for the other Masses during the weekend.
- Sanitizing hands is not required upon entering the Church; however, we do ask that you continue with this practice at this time.
- **The dispensation for the obligation to attend Mass:** remains in effect through August 14, 2021. As of August 15, the obligation to attend Mass on Holy Days and Sundays (or Saturday Vigil), resumes.
- **Communion to the Homebound:** Clergy and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are permitted to bring the Holy Eucharist to the homebound. Contact Karen Michaux (412-207-1655) if you would like to resume serving in this ministry, or if you are homebound and are not receiving Holy Communion.