

I am pleased to announce the following updates to our COVID-19 Protocols, effective immediately:

- Masking and maintaining social distancing are now optional for those who have been vaccinated. Those who have not been vaccinated are asked to continue to wear facemasks and maintain social distancing at Mass. It should be noted that we will NOT ask anyone to reveal whether or not they have been vaccinated.
- Regardless of your vaccination status, for those who prefer to continue to maintain social distancing, every-other-pew in the rear third of the church will remain roped off. We are making this space available for those who would feel more comfortable with a little extra room. We do expect that anyone who sits in this section, whether or not they have been vaccinated, will wear a facemask.
- We will resume passing the collection basket during weekend Masses.
- Those who wish to receive Holy Communion on the tongue are free to do so. We do ask, however, that if you have not been vaccinated and you wish to receive Holy Communion on the tongue, you wait until the end of the line to receive.

A word about the dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation... For the time being, Bishop Zinkula has opted to leave the dispensation in place. That said, if you feel comfortable going out to eat in a restaurant or going to the grocery store, I would say it is time to come back to Church! Time spent at Mass is time spent with our heavenly Father. God forbid we get to the point where we think of time spent with our heavenly Father strictly in terms of an obligation!

In the coming weeks we will begin to plan for resuming the ministry of altar servers and cantors, as well as congregational singing at Mass. We ask for your patience in this process. In the meantime, in all things the virtue of Christian charity, which calls us to love God above all things and love our neighbor as our self, must be our guide and our standard. Christian charity means we will the good of the other. The way we respond to those who do or don't wear a mask, do or don't chose to maintain social distancing, and so on, is a very real and concrete opportunity to put the virtue of Christian charity into practice.

Know of my continued prayers for you!

Every Blessing,

Fr. Chris