

**General Policy Directives**

1. Effective February 28, 2022, all parishes within the Diocese of San Bernardino may operate under the sacramental/liturgical/worship rubrics used prior to COVID pandemic, except as noted within Directives below.
2. Parishes, at the election of the Pastor/Administrator, may continue with more stringent requirements, if the parish is located within a low or very low vaccination rate zip code region, or high case load percentage, as defined by the CDC and California Department of Public Health.
3. Pastors/Administrators should re-emphasize to parishioners, staff and volunteers the critical importance of remaining at home if they are ill, or if a member of their household is ill, given these reinstated pre-COVID standards, as the pandemic continues to threaten several geo-areas within Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

**Changes to Capacity/Social Distancing Regulations**

1. Parishes may continue to offer sacraments, liturgies and worship services indoors, without any COVID protocol restrictions, if indoor seating is 5,000 or less.
2. Parishes may continue to offer sacraments, liturgies and worship services outdoors without any COVID protocol restrictions, if outdoor seating is 10,000 or less, as weather conditions permit.
3. Although no COVID limitations on seating capacity are required, parishes are still encouraged to maintain a three (3) feet distance between seats until May 1, 2022.

**Changes to Sanitizing/Hygiene Protocols**

1. Deep cleaning before and after each service is no longer necessary.
2. Parishes are encouraged to maintain a thorough once daily cleaning on Saturdays and Sundays, and during periods of high church use.
3. Priests/ushers/deacons/sacristans are encouraged to use hand sanitizers, before and after services, to ensure safest protocols, given interaction with numerous individuals in the performance of their pastoral and liturgical duties.

**Changes to Mask Requirement**

1. Masks are no longer required, indoors, for vaccinated persons.
2. Ushers/volunteers are strongly encouraged to wear masks, due to interaction with numerous individuals who may or may not be vaccinated.
3. Due to the risk of marginalizing or stigmatizing those who elect *not* to receive the vaccine, parishes are encouraged to post signage which states:

*Parishioners/attendees/guests are encouraged to wear masks, if health conditions exist, or as a personal choice, to ensure maximum safety/precautions for all.*

### ***Changes to Liturgical/Sacramental/Worship Directives***

*(Except as noted below, liturgical practices and procedures may be resumed pre-COVID. However, Pastors/Administrators/Pastoral Coordinators may elect to maintain current COVID protocols or enact more stringent COVID directives, based upon their assessment of their parish community vaccination rate or cases continued COVID risk in their geographic area.)*

1. *Ashes* – Sprinkling atop head or cross on forehead as determined by Pastor.
2. *Baptisms* – No immersion fonts; continue current practice until May 1, 2022.
3. *Candles* – No open flames outdoors, at any time.
4. *Communion on the Hand or Tongue* – Continue current practice of one line for each.
5. *Communion Cup for Assembly* – Not provided yet.
6. *Confirmations* - Cotton swabs on forehead or direct application, if preferred,
7. *Crucifixes/Crosses* – Kissing/touching not permitted by general congregation; priests may do so if crucifix/cross is sanitized after service.
8. *Hospitality* – No self-help; servers continue to wear masks and gloves.
9. *Masks for Parishioners/Attendees/Guests* – Honor system for general parishioners.
10. *Masks for Celebrants* – See “Changes to Mask Requirements” above.
11. *Masks for Ushers/Volunteers* – See “Changes to Mask Requirements” above.
12. *Sign of Peace at Altar for Priests/Deacons* – Continue as currently done.
13. *Sign of Peace among Assembly* – Continue as currently done.
14. *Visits to Homebound* – No mask required if minister (priest, deacon, or lay minister) is vaccinated; vaccination not required for homebound parishioner.
15. *Holy Week and Triduum Guidelines are being developed.*