



## UPDATED GUIDANCE ON MASKS DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE

Based on the new State of Illinois mask mandate taking effect Monday, August 30, 2021, all individuals, regardless of their vaccination status, age two and older, are required to wear a mask while indoors. This includes weekday and weekend Masses, Eucharistic adoration, children's liturgy of the Word, PSR, nursery, etc. Masking is also required at all indoor parish social events.

The safety protocols for Mass and Liturgy sent in June 2021 remain in effect.

- All communicants should sanitize hands prior to the reception of Communion. This should occur as people approach the priest or extraordinary minister of Holy Communion.
- It is a good practice to continue to offer hand sanitizer at the entrances of the church.
- Parishes should continue to clean and disinfect pews and other high touch surfaces after every celebration and/or event.
- It is important to maintain an area in the church for those individuals who prefer to social distance.
- Ushers should continue to take up the collection with the use of baskets on the ends of poles rather than passing a collection plate from pew to pew. A basket in a visible location is also acceptable.
- Priests, Deacons and servers should sanitize their hands frequently or wear gloves when handling liturgical items or vessels.

Parishes with upcoming outdoor festivals may also want to consider wearing masks in crowded outdoor settings with activities that involve close contact.

Face coverings may be removed by workers in offices when they can consistently maintain six feet of distance (such as when workers are in their offices).

Layered mitigation approaches have proven to be most successful in minimizing Covid transmission in our churches. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we strive to continue to keep our people safe and our churches open.

**CHURCH REOPENING RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
AUGUST 30, 2021**