



Directives for Liturgies Update

Effective March 3, 2022, the Diocese of Lexington will allow for **optional masking** for all people at Mass and all liturgies (**except** for Ministers of Communion when they are distributing Communion). In addition, the decision as to when it might be necessary to require masks because of local conditions will be made by the local parish leadership.

Pastors and Parish Life Directors are encouraged to create zones for those who will remain masked and prefer social distancing in their churches wherever it is possible to do so. We again encourage all eligible individuals to be vaccinated and boosted for their own well-being and in service of the common good.

Congregational singing should be greatly reduced or eliminated until further notice. This remains a necessary precaution to continue to mitigate against the spread of COVID-19. All people eligible for vaccination should seek it as soon as possible.

The following directives remain in effect:

- Holy water can again be used and made available
- Music books and worship aids for multiple use can be used
- Sanitization of pews and surfaces is no longer required
- Offertory gifts may be presented in procession if hosts and wine are covered.
- Frequent hand washing and availability of sanitizer
- Ministers of communion wear **masks**. The minister may resume saying “The body of Christ.”
- No passing of baskets for offertory procession
- Communion offered only under the form of bread
- Modified sign of peace
- The norm for reception of communion remains in the hand for the duration of the pandemic; if accommodations can be safely made for the option to receive on the tongue, this is at the discretion of the pastor.

Choirs:

Because of the aerosol spread of the virus, choirs remain a concern. Choirs may resume, but members will have to demonstrate that they have been fully vaccinated.