

Diocese of Scranton COVID-19 Information

Updated: March 11, 2022



The Diocese of Scranton continues to joyfully welcome the faithful to return to Masses at all of its parishes especially with declining levels of the COVID-19 virus in our community. Despite the challenges of the last two years, we invite those who have not yet returned to Mass to rejoin us in person to celebrate the Holy Eucharist, the source and summit of the Christian life.

CURRENT MASS PROTOCOLS/RESTRICTIONS

- The distribution of Precious Blood from the cup continues to remain suspended at this time.

MASK GUIDANCE FOR MASSES

- Masks are not required for Mass but any parishioner is welcome to wear one at any time.
- The faithful are encouraged to be familiar with the level of COVID-19 transmission in their community and make an informed decision on what is best for them. Individuals who are at high risk for severe illness should talk to their healthcare provider to discuss their activities.
- Any individual with symptoms, a positive test or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention.
- People are asked to be respectful of a person's choice to wear/not wear a face covering or mask in churches throughout the Diocese of Scranton.

OTHER NOTES

- Simply as a practice of good hygiene rather than a pandemic protocol, Priests, Deacons and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are encouraged to continue washing or sanitizing their hands prior to the distribution of Holy Communion.
- The Diocese of Scranton reinstated the obligation to attend Mass in person on Sundays and Holy Days on Sunday, August 15, 2021. However, by longstanding Church law, this obligation does not apply to those who are: sick, have a serious health risk, live in a household with those at risk, are primary caregivers to those at risk or have serious anxiety or concerns about being in a large-group setting due to COVID-19.

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