

Clergy News

March 21, 2022

From **Bishop Colli's Office**

To all parishes - clergy and parishioners:

With the Government of Ontario indicating that the Mandatory Masking Policy is no longer in effect as of March 21, 2022 - I am noting the following directives for our diocese.

- For Masses and other services, the wearing of a Mask will be **OPTIONAL** for all parishioners and clergy. We will always respect the decisions made by our people in their choice.
- For distribution of **Holy Communion**, to respect those who wish to continue to wear a mask, I would ask all priests, deacons and ministers of communion to continue to sanitize your hands before distribution and to wear a mask while distributing Holy Communion at Mass or in other places.
- Communion is still to be received in the hand, and there is still no communion from the cup at this time.
- I would ask that **some social distancing** be continued if possible.
- Please keep the hand sanitizers at the doors of your church.
- You are welcome to take down any dividers for the pews, since we are now open to full capacity. Parish priests are to decide this.
- We will see what directions we will be given as we approach Holy Week ceremonies. Right now no new directions were given to us from the Ontario Bishops or the WorshipSafe Committee at this time.
- Thank you for your cooperation in these directives. Questions - please call me or e-mail me at the Pastoral Centre.

Thank You.

+*Fred J. Colli*

Bishop of Thunder Bay