



**UPDATED Guidelines for Mass Attendance and Parish Activities**  
*(as of June 25, 2021)*

## Phase 5 COVID-19 Protocols

The state of Illinois entered Phase 5 on Friday, June 11, 2021, which means that all sectors of society will fully reopen. The Diocese of Joliet will follow Illinois public health guidelines and offers the following details for all church services effective June 11, 2021:

### Masks

In accordance with current Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidance, fully-vaccinated individuals can participate in indoor and outdoor activities, large or small, without wearing a mask or physical distancing. ("fully-vaccinated" refers to people who are two weeks past their last required COVID-19 vaccine dose.) Individuals who have not been vaccinated should continue to wear masks.

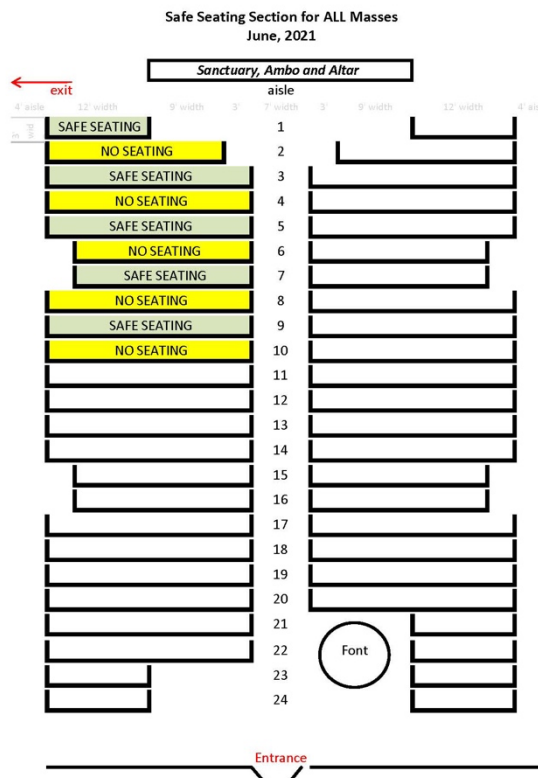
To provide for varying comfort levels, it is suggested that a seating area be set aside, if possible, for parishioners uneasy with sitting with unmasked individuals.

Fully vaccinated priests and Eucharistic ministers are no longer required to wear masks and face shields.

### Capacity and registration

Full capacity is allowed, and registration is no longer required. However, pastors may want to retain their registration systems in case a spike in COVID-19 cases occur in the coming fall and winter.

**NOTE:** For those who still prefer to adhere to safety protocols, **Safe Seating** is now provided at **ALL masses**. Please use the front left section of the Church if you wish to maintain social distancing at mass. Please see chart below for of the "safe seating" section.



**Vaccination status**

Employers have the legal right to ask staff if they have been vaccinated. However, the diocese will not require employees or the general populace to provide their vaccination status. Yet we strongly encourage vaccinations for all ministers.

**Dispensation**

The dispensation to attend Sunday Mass remains in place for the time being, with the intention of providing our parishes and our parishioners the opportunity to navigate and adjust to these new guidelines and protocols.

**Hand sanitizer**

It is recommended that hand sanitizer be available, but not required for entering/exiting the church and/or at the reception of Holy Communion.

**Church sanitation**

Sanitation of the church is required only once a day, per the CDC.

**Holy water fonts**

Even before the pandemic, holy water fonts have been identified as a potential source of bacterial and viral infection. So, we will continue to refrain from displaying and using holy water for the time being.

**Chalice**

Because of the potential transfer of saliva, we will continue to refrain from offering wine in a chalice at Communion for the time being.

**Communion on the tongue**

Communion on the hand is still the preferable option. Communion on the tongue is allowed **at the pastor's discretion**.

**Singing**

Singing is allowed.

**Paper worship aids**

Missals, hymnals, prayer books, bulletins, posters, etc., are allowed for display and use.

**Collection baskets**

Baskets on a pole are allowed, but baskets passed from hand to hand are not.

**Presentation of gifts**

Presentation of gifts is allowed.

**Sign of peace**

The sign of peace will continue to be made without physical contact. Offer a friendly wave to your neighbor.

**Food**

Food is allowed per pre-pandemic sanitary guidelines.

**Office and social gatherings**

Capacity at office and social gatherings can be at pre-pandemic, full capacity levels.