



St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church – Itasca, Illinois

REVISED Guidelines for Mass Attendance and Parish Activities
(as of May 5, 2022)

REVISED

COVID-19 Protocols

The progress of the COVID-19 pandemic in Illinois remains unpredictable. The Diocese of Joliet continues to consult with public health, education, and civil authorities and modify requirements as conditions, mandates, and guidance change. We are committed to providing an integrated, safe, responsible, and balanced perspective. Faithful citizenship is key. Individuals are expected to take personal responsibility for the common good, and their own safety. Remember that taking every precaution to reduce the spread of the virus is an act of charity toward others in Christ, particularly toward the sick, the elderly, and those too young to receive vaccine protection.

- **Everyone is encouraged to get vaccinated.**
- **WEARING A MASK is left to the discretion of individuals. Please be respectful of people's choices.**
- **Continue to use hand sanitizer as a safeguard.**
- **Dispensation.**
Bishop Hicks has lifted the dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass. Effective with the weekend of Palm Sunday (April 10), members of our Diocese are required to attend Sunday Mass, as well as Holy Days Obligation. Of course, if individuals are ill or contagious to others, Canon law allows them to decide for themselves if they should attend Mass.
- **Congregational singing is allowed.**
Hymnals are in the pews to use if needed to read the prayers and readings.
- **Exchange of Peace at Mass.**
The congregation may make whatever Sign of Peace they are comfortable with.
- **Holy Communion.**
Communion in the hand is the norm; however, pastors have discretion as to whether or not Communion shall be provided on the tongue at their parish.

As changes and revisions are made by the Government and Church leadership, we will continually keep parishioners informed, and changes will be made as the situation allows.

Our goal is to maintain a safe, responsible, cooperative, and healthy operation of the parish in these difficult times.