



# Diocese of Shreveport

Office of the Bishop

3500 Fairfield Avenue Shreveport, LA 71104  
PH: 318-868-4441 FAX: 318-868-4469

## COVID-19 Directives May 21, 2021

This past Tuesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, I met with the priests of the Diocese of Shreveport to update them on the restrictions that have been in place regarding COVID-19.

After consultation with local medical authorities, the following changes to the COVID-19 directives are effective immediately. Please make sure to inform your congregation about these changes.

- 1) Masks are no longer required but are still recommended during Mass.
- 2) Ministers of Holy Communion will only sanitize their hands prior to the distribution of Holy Communion, even with reception on the tongue. Those distributing Holy Communion should determine whether they should make use of masks when distributing.
- 3) The dispensation from the Sunday Obligation ends on June 6, the feast of Corpus Christi.
- 4) Illness is still a serious reason that allows someone to be dispensed from their obligation to attend Mass on Sunday.
- 5) The use of Holy Water in church should resume. Each church should monitor the cleanliness of the Holy Water font.
- 6) There is no need to space pews nor insist on 6 feet social distancing. Congregants should use common sense with social distancing.
- 7) Offertory processions should resume as was previously practiced.

You may wish to make a copy of these directives and place it in your parish bulletins, but this should certainly be read to your congregants and placed on your website and social media.

*+ Francis I. Malone*

+ Francis I. Malone, D.D., J.C.L.  
Bishop of Shreveport