



Archdiocese of Winnipeg  
*Office of the Archbishop*

1495 Pembina Highway, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 2C6 • Tel: 204-452-2227 • Fax: 204-475-4409 • Web: www.archwinnipeg.ca

**MEMORANDUM**

To: All Parishes  
All Priests

From: Archbishop Richard Gagnon

Date: March 1, 2022

Re: Updates to COVID-19 Restrictions

+ R. G.

Yesterday, the Provincial Government announced a loosening of COVID-19 restrictions throughout Manitoba, affecting all indoor public places, including Places of Worship and Sunday Mass. Effective Tuesday, March 1, 2022, there are no longer any capacity restrictions on indoor gatherings. The protocols on wearing masks in indoor places continue until March 15<sup>th</sup>.

These new protocols mean a certain return to normality. We should welcome all parishioners to gather for the celebration of Mass, especially on Sunday. It is our desire to welcome people back to church safely. Some may be hesitant to return, and it will be necessary to be aware of and respect the comfort levels of returning parishioners.

The general dispensation from Sunday Mass, which expired yesterday, will not be renewed at this time. Keeping contact lists will no longer be required. For the comfort of all, attendees should self-screen before arriving at Mass for any symptoms of COVID-19. If people are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, they should refrain from coming to Mass.

In reference to the Liturgical Protocols published on May 21, 2020, the following revisions are effective as of today:

1. **Weekday and Sunday Mass** celebrations can return to normal with no capacity restrictions. Masks must still be worn indoors. The same is true for gatherings in parish halls and for parish meetings.
2. **Live-streaming Mass** is encouraged in order to benefit members of the community who are shut-in or in personal care homes.
3. **Hand sanitizing stations** should be made available at the entrances to the Church building.
4. **Collection Procedures** may resume to pre-pandemic practice.
5. **Offertory Processions** can be reinstated to pre-pandemic practice.



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6. **Celebrations of First Communion, Baptisms, Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, Marriages and Funerals** return to normal with no capacity restrictions. Masks must still be worn indoors.
7. **Celebration of Confirmation** can be celebrated with no capacity restrictions. The Archbishop will resume celebrating Confirmation in parishes after the celebration of Easter.
8. **The Sign of Peace** will continue to be expressed with a head bow toward others in the assembly.
9. **Communion Processions** can return without physical distancing.
10. **The Distribution of Communion** returns to pre-pandemic practice with the exception that the communion cup will not be offered and receiving Communion on the hand will be the general practice.
11. **Holy Water fonts** may be filled and used.
12. **Perpetual Adoration Chapels** can be opened with no limits to capacity. Masks must still be worn indoors.

**For Ash Wednesday, regular celebrations may take place with no capacity limits. Ashes are to be sprinkled on top of the head as they were last year.**

The bishops of Manitoba will be meeting in the coming weeks to discuss further developments, and additional announcements will follow.

Wishing you a very blessed Lenten Season and thanking you for your leadership during this time.