



DIOCESE *of* LACROSSE

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

24 August 2021

Dear Brothers in Christ,

May the Lord give you peace.

With the recent increase in cases and hospitalizations of the delta variant of COVID- 19 in the 19 counties representing the Diocese of La Crosse, I am asking that you continue to be vigilant about taking precautions in caring for the health, safety and well-being of your parishioners, staff and communities. At this time, I am recommending that these guidelines be implemented in our churches. In addition, any mandates issued by your city or county officials should be followed.

Wearing a mask is strongly recommended while attending Mass and other parish events.

Masks are to be worn for the distribution of Holy Communion by all priests, deacons and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion. This includes visits to the sick and homebound and applies even to those who have been vaccinated.

While there is no policy for seating of those who have been vaccinated and those who have not each church should designate an area for seating of individuals who desire to observe social distancing. If social distancing can be carried out for the entire church while accommodating the number of those attending Mass, please do so.

Hand sanitizing stations should continue to be made available to all who enter our churches and institutions.

Frequently touched surfaces in the church (pews/ pew tops, door handles, microphones, etc.) should be cleaned and/or sanitized per CDC recommendations.

I ask that you continue to pray for all those who have been affected by the pandemic as well as the medical personnel who serve our communities during this most challenging time.

With assurance of my prayers, I am,
Fraternally yours in Christ,

Most Reverend William Patrick Callahan
Bishop of La Crosse