



DIOCESE OF SUPERIOR OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

January 14, 2022

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I hope and pray that you and your loved ones have enjoyed blessings in this new year. May our loving God continue to shower us with many blessings throughout the year. One blessing we need to continue to pray for is the end of COVID-19.

As we enter this new year, we find ourselves still trying to navigate our way through new variants, rising numbers of new cases and changing guidelines. I want to thank our Priests, Parish Director, Parish Life Coordinators, and other parish leaders who so diligently continue to follow our Diocesan COVID Protocols. Through your efforts we are working together to keep those who attend Mass and other parish activities safe.

With the rising number of cases of the Omicron variant, I want to once again, encourage everyone to do your part to help prevent the spread of COVID.

In particular I strongly recommend:

1. the wearing of face masks, especially if you are singing or serving as a Deacon, Extraordinary minister of the Eucharist, usher, or greeter. As they become available N-95 or KN-95 rated masks should be procured.
2. the practice of social distancing as space allows;
3. hand sanitizer readily available.

To my knowledge there has been no outbreak of COVID -19 due to Mass attendance. I pray that through the exercise of our communal and personal responsibility we can continue to keep each other healthy and safe. With that in mind I want to remind anyone who feels sick, or has high risk health factors, or who is taking care of someone who falls in one of the above groups to stay home. As explained in the past, these would be issues and circumstances that would allow you a personal dispensation to not attend Mass without incurring serious sin. Although we know it is not the same as gathering in person to celebrate the gift of the Holy Mass and receive the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of our Lord in the Eucharist, those unable to attend Mass in person can receive the blessing of a Spiritual Communion by participating in the celebration of the Mass virtually via Facebook, television or some other means.

In closing I ask that you continue to pray daily for an end to COVID-19. Let us also pray for those who have or are struggling with COVID and for all the medical personnel who so selflessly put their lives on the line to minister to the sick. Know that you are in my thoughts and prayers daily.

May God Bless and Protect you,

Most Rev. James P. Powers
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Bishop of the Diocese of Superior