



DIocese OF ALLENTOWN
OFFICE FOR DIVINE WORSHIP
4029 West Tilghman Street
Post Office Box F
Allentown, Pennsylvania 18105-1538
Telephone 610-437-0755
Fax 610-433-7822

MEMORANDUM

1 March 2022

TO: *All Priests and Deacons*
FM: *Reverend Keith A. Mathur, Director* *(KAM)*
RE: *COVID-19 Liturgy Update – Facemask*
CC: *Diocesan Parishes*

On behalf of His Excellency, Most Reverend Alfred A. Schlert, I wish to share with you an additional relaxation of a COVID-19 guideline in the Diocese of Allentown.

Effective with the Vigil Masses for the 1st Sunday of Lent (5 March 2022), Priests, Deacons, and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are no longer required to wear a facemask for distribution of Holy Communion. The decision will now be at the Pastor's discretion based on the local parish's needs. Certainly, anyone who wishes may continue to wear a mask.

For visits to the homebound and Holy Communion to the sick, a mask is strongly recommended due to the infirmed's high risk category.

The Exchange of the Sign of Peace and the Distribution of the Precious Blood to the faithful remain suspended and will be reviewed prior to Holy Week.

To be clear, any other COVID protocol from the past can be lifted, at the discretion of the Pastor.

Thank you for your steadfast assistance over these past two years in implementing the various stages in your parishes.