



THE DIOCESE OF YAKIMA • PASTORAL OFFICE LA DIÓCESIS DE YAKIMA • CENTRO PASTORAL

Decree Rescinding and Amending Coronavirus Pandemic Pastoral Directives

In accord with Canon 223 (CIC), I, the Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson, Bishop of Yakima, do hereby decree the following:

WHEREAS:

Effective June 30, 2021, Washington Governor Jay Inslee rescinded most coronavirus-related restrictions as part of the “Healthy Washington: Roadmap to Recovery” plan, with the following reopening guidance:

- Vaccine verification/negative testing: Recommended but not required for large indoor and outdoor events
- Capacity limitations: No restrictions in restaurants, bars, stores, businesses, theaters etc. (except large indoor events)
- Physical distancing: No requirements
- Facial coverings: Not required for **vaccinated** individuals, unless required by individual business
- Travelers: Follow CDC recommendations (available here: <https://tinyurl.com/3psf366b>)

THEREFORE, I RESCIND MY PREVIOUS DECREES ESTABLISHING PASTORAL DIRECTIVES FOR THE DIOCESE OF YAKIMA TO THE EXTENT THEY HAVE GOVERNED THE CELEBRATION OF SACRAMENTS AND OTHER LITURGICAL RITES DURING THE COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC, AMENDING THEM AS FOLLOWS AND PROCLAIMING THESE AMENDMENTS AS PARTICULAR LAW WITHIN THE DIOCESE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE:

CHANGES EFFECTIVE SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

Sunday Obligation

The dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass will end on Sunday, September 19. On that day, as well as on its vigil, at the discretion of the pastor or parish administrator, the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross may be celebrated, proper readings for the Feast Day, or alternatively the readings for the 25th Sunday of Ordinary Time.

Communion Under Both Species

The reception of the Precious Blood by the Faithful may be restored beginning on Sunday, September 19, as well as on its vigil. Pastors and parish administrators may seek my permission to maintain this restriction if local health conditions warrant it at the time.

CHANGES EFFECTIVE BY JULY 25, 2021

Beginning today, with timing at the discretion of the pastor or parish administrator, the following may be reintroduced to our liturgical celebrations, with a goal for full implementation by Sunday, July 25:

- Return of Holy Water in all areas (recommended that water be changed frequently)
- The invitation to the faithful to exchange a sign of peace

- Presentation of gifts by the faithful
- Missal, chalice, paten/ciborium and cruets of wine and water may be brought to the altar per normal practice
- Communicants may remove face coverings before presenting themselves for Communion
- Communion may be received on the hand or on the tongue

CHANGES EFFECTIVE BY AUGUST 29, 2021

Beginning today, with timing at the discretion of the pastor or parish administrator, the following may be reintroduced to our liturgical celebrations, with a goal for full implementation by Sunday, Aug. 29:

- Cry rooms can return to pre-COVID practice and use
- Parish child-care during Mass can resume
- Children’s Liturgy of the Word may return
- Congregational singing

PRACTICES THAT NORMALLY WILL CONTINUE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE:

- Livestreaming of Masses
- Encourage parishioners to self-monitor and stay home if symptoms of illness are present
- Maintain additional hygiene measures, including availability of hand sanitizer
- Continued use of honor system regarding vaccinations
- Masks available for those who choose to wear them
- Gatherings outside of Mass allowed indoors at discretion of pastor or parish administrator

COMMITMENT TO TRANSPARENCY

In the event an employee, volunteer, or a parishioner who has attended Mass reports testing positive for COVID-19, follow these procedures:

- Gather information related to the date, time on site and people with whom the person had interactions.
- Contact your local health department to determine next steps with both persons who had contact with the individual and recommendations on cleaning.
- Contact the Diocese to discuss health department requirements and next steps for parish communication, building cleaning, etc.

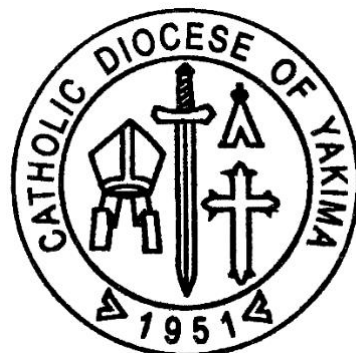
These directives will remain in force in the Diocese of Yakima until partially or fully revoked.

Given this day, June 30, 2021, at the Pastoral Center of the Diocese of Yakima



Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson
Bishop of Yakima

[signature electronically applied]




Rev. Msgr. Robert M. Siler
Chancellor

[signature electronically applied]