



DIOCESE OF BUFFALO  
OFFICE OF WORSHIP

## **COVID-19 Update: Erie County Phase Approach (Please review regardless of your county.) November 22, 2021**

*On November 22, 2021, Erie County announced a four-phase approach to mitigate the recent surge of cases, which place Erie County in the highest in New York State in terms of a seven-day infection rate and cases per 100,000 people.*

### **Mask Mandate — Erie County Only**

At this time, masks are mandated for all participants in liturgies held in Catholic churches and worship spaces located in Erie County and at parishes with at least one worship site in Erie County.

As in the past, the only exception given to this will be for clergy and other liturgical ministers when they are fulfilling a significant speaking role. (They should maintain at least six feet of physical distance from others during these limited occasions.)

### **Parishes Outside Erie County**

For now, Pastors/ Administrators and staff of parishes outside of Erie County should be attentive to the current local regulations for their area and implement mask mandates if their counties issue similar guidance.

### **Border Parishes**

If a parish has multiple worship sites, especially if they are in differing counties, the county's regulations that are more stringent should be implemented so as to err on the side of caution.