



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

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May 11, 2022

Dear brothers & sisters in Christ,

Unfortunately, after two years, we still find ourselves in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. In light of a rising number of Coronavirus infections, both nationwide and in West Virginia, and more COVID-related hospitalizations in many places, I do not want to relax any of our safety protocols at this time. We will keep our eye on further developments, but for the present the best course for our people's and our own safety is to keep in place the safety measures we have been following.

As a reminder, that means that anyone distributing Holy Communion should wear a mask, sanitize his or her hands before offering the Eucharist to the faithful and sanitize the hand that has given the Sacrament, after a person receives on the tongue, before giving the Host to the next communicant. The Precious Blood is still not to be offered to the faithful for safety reasons.

All other protocols put in place by the Diocese on June 11, 2021, (linked [here](#)) remain in effect.

I thank you for observing these safety measures at the moment of closest personal contact with the faithful. May we all receive the Lord Jesus with faith and joy, with due regard to mutual safety. Let us continue to offer our prayers for an end to this pandemic that God will spare the loss of more lives and the serious illness of others.

Fraternally in Christ,

+Mark E. Brennan
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston