

December 2021

Dear Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

Last week I made a clarification stating that only ministers who are not vaccinated must wear a mask. On Monday we received an updated statement from the diocese that recognized the Governor's inclusion of houses of worship in the new mask mandate. Therefore, all Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are required to wear a mask when distributing Holy Communion. In addition, I ask that even if you are not ministering that you wear a mask anytime you are in church.

Hospitalizations have risen 70% due to Covid since Thanksgiving. Please cooperate with the mask mandate not as an expression of allegiance to political leaders but out of care and concern for others. We want everyone to feel welcome here during these holy days of Christmas.

Because of your very public role, I am asking you to please be an example for others and wear your mask when in the church. If not, I am put in the position of having to explain why someone who is an active volunteer is not following the governor's mandate.

In anticipation of our Christmas celebrations, I thank you for all you will do to make our celebration of the birth of the Lord joyful and sacred.

Peace,

*Fr. Gerard*