

May 24, 2022

Dear Monsignor or Father or Deacon:

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to be a concern, especially in light of the recent increase of cases. It is important that we continue providing an atmosphere in which people feel comfortable attending Mass and approaching to receive the Eucharist.

At its recent meeting on May 12, the Presbyteral Council discussed the current COVID-19 protocols for the Diocese of Erie, to see if they should be revised. The Council proposed the following changes which the Bishop approved. They are effective immediately:

NOW PERMITTED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE PASTOR, according to his prudent judgment:

- Passing the collection basket from person to person along the pew
- Processions for the presentation of the gifts, provided that 1) all vessels containing the water, wine and hosts be covered/closed, and 2) those carrying the gifts purify their hands before picking them up. The number of people handling the gifts should be few.

STILL PROHIBITED:

- The distribution of the Blood of Christ
- The distribution of the Body of Christ by those not vaccinated

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either me, or Father Chris Singer, or Father Matt Kujawinski.

Sincerely,
Msgr. Edward M. Lohse
Vicar General