



**DIOCESE OF GREAT FALLS-BILLINGS**  
**OFFICE OF THE BISHOP**

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Date: April 22, 2021  
To: All  
From: Bishop Michael Warfel

Thanks to all those who have tried to follow COVID related protocols to date. They may be an annoyance but have played a role in lessening the impact of the coronavirus on behalf of the common good.

The following are adjustments to existing protocols for the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings:

**If a county health department does not require face coverings or restrictions on capacity, neither are these restrictions required at parishes in those counties. If county health departments do require masks and spacing, these restrictions are required at parishes also.** (Check with your county health department).

**The obligation to attend Sunday Mass and Holy Days continues to be dispensed but attendance is strongly urged. Opportunities are available for Mass during the week. Parishioners should consider this option if there is concern for gathering on a Sunday with a larger attendance.**

**Parishioners are to be reminded of the importance of receiving the Eucharist, if at all possible, (the Easter Duty) and making a good confession (the Sacrament of Penance) during the Easter Season. Parishes throughout the Diocese provide ample opportunities for the Sacrament of Penance.**

**Parish gatherings are allowed following the guidance of local county health departments.** (It is important to be mindful of those who may be vulnerable and who have underlying conditions which may include the parish priest. Each parish church should have masks available at the entrance as well as sanitizers).

The invitation by the celebrant "Peace with you" and the people's response, "And with your spirit," should be made. The physical sign of peace among the assembly is not to be offered but the practice of turning towards others with a simple nod of the head as a sign of solidarity and respect may be offered as a sign of peace.



*Bishop's Livestock Brand*