

# Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Winnipeg Українська Католицька Архиепархія в Вінніпегу

## A Post Pandemic Protocol

Archeparchy Directive # 21 (9 March 2023)

Glory be to Jesus Christ!

Prot. H/23/2023

### To the Reverend Pastors, Administrators and Directors of Pastoral Care Efforts within the Archeparchy of Winnipeg

Almost a year has passed since directives were issued by the Archeparchy in response to the global concern for SARS-CoV-2 that had gripped the attention of the world and, to some degree, still does.<sup>1</sup> By midmonth of March 2022 social restrictions, imposed in the interest of curtailing the spread of the novel coronavirus in Manitoba, were cautiously allowed to lapse by our local provincial government.

Three years after the Covid-19 pandemic was first declared, the world has had the opportunity to learn much about such viruses and their spread as well as effective means by which to control that spread. Much has also been learned about how society and our governments respond to such global crises. Religious communities, including our Archeparchy, were also able to learn much about themselves and how we should best respond to such a crisis while maintaining both the interests of public safety and the integrity of our faith and the Gospel principles.

Some clergy have inquired as to what precautions should still be practiced in the parish setting. In this light, the following recommendations and preferences are proposed for the consideration of pastoral leaders.

1. There are presently no particular civil healthcare *restrictions* applicable to Archeparchial facilities or to events or gatherings held in said facilities or otherwise under the auspices of Archeparchial parishes or organizations. Parishes are asked not to create or impose restrictions that would compromise the spirit of kindness and welcomeness that our parishioners and visitors should experience in relation to all aspects of life in the Church. With regard to access to the Sacraments and pastoral visits, clergy are asked to accommodate every request in the best way possible. Various health facilities do maintain regulations - such as mask wearing and asking for contact information - in the interest of protecting the residents and staff. These regulations need to be respected.
2. Reasonable provisions should be made to assist the Faithful in comfortably participating in Liturgical events and other parish occasions. This means such things

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<sup>1</sup> cf. "The Status of Archeparchial Covid 19 Directives" (H/30/2022) 31 May 2022.

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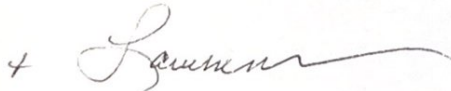
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as maintaining the availability of hand sanitizer, providing some facial masks and maintaining clean hygienic facilities.

3. Parish communities should be sensitive to those among the faithful that choose to remain cautious. Masks can be worn by whoever so wishes. Social distancing may be practiced by those who so wish as much as the size of the facility permits.
4. Those who are ill - especially with external signs such as fever, sniffing, sneezing or coughing should voluntarily choose to not attend parish events until the illness and symptoms pass. If such a person should find him/herself at a parish event and is making others uncomfortable, they may be *kindly* asked to consider the concerns of other parishioners by retiring to a secluded family room, if available, or by leaving the facility until the symptoms pass.
5. Clergy are to wear a mask when distributing Holy Communion to the Faithful. Clergy are strongly encouraged to wear a mask when the Eucharistic gifts are exposed. The large veil may be kept over the Eucharistic gifts through to the reception of Holy Communion, especially during concelebrated Liturgies.
6. Clergy are to communicate from the chalice by intinction, refraining from drinking directly from the chalice. This applies both to when concelebrating with other clergy and when celebrating alone. In the latter case, if it is determined that no one from among the faithful will be receiving Holy Communion, then drinking from the chalice is permitted.
7. Clergy are asked to continue using one-per-use utensils - i.e. either wooden sticks, that are respectfully disposed of, or metal spoons that are also appropriately purified and thoroughly sanitized after the Eucharistic Liturgy.
8. Clergy should consider the reception by the Faithful before reinstating too quickly the traditional practices of: the "kiss of peace" prior to the profession of Faith except perhaps by a nod; venerating the Book of the Gospels, Icons, Crosses by a kiss, etc.

We thank our Lord that the worst of this pandemic seems to have passed. However, we don't know when something similar might return. Should that happen, God forbid, we will surely have a different attitude and will hopefully deal with it in a much more effective manner. However, we have learned much about communicable diseases in our modern society and we can and should take all necessary precautions even now by preventative, but reasonable measures.

God bless us all,



Most Reverend Lawrence Huculak  
Metropolitan