



Office of the Bishop

Further Clarifications to New Health Orders

8 December 2021

Dear Pastors, Assoc. Pastors, and Parishioners,

Greetings and Peace in the Lord!

Further to my last Memo, please find the following clarifications to the recent Public Health Orders that were issued 30 November 2021. Please note:

1. Masks have been made mandatory for worship services for everyone 5 years and older. Public Health is asking that signage to this effect be posted at all entrances to the church and parish facilities.

A person can remove their mask for Holy Communion and once outside the Church. A reader, single soloist or a musician playing a wind instrument can temporarily remove their mask while engaging in a worship activity. Choirs must wear a mask during worship services.

Again, it is important for masks to be worn properly to be effective. They must fully cover one's nose and mouth. If a person cannot wear a mask for the entirety of Mass, it might be better to attend Mass virtually or in their vehicle through FM broadcast.

2. The capacity limit for worship services has been reduced to 50% of seated capacity. Although Public Health says that if all persons are vaccinated, capacity could increase to 100%, I am not going to promote further divisions among our parishioners by checking their vaccination status in order to attend Mass.

Once more, thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we do all that we can to keep each other safe. God bless you.

Sincerely in Christ our Lord,

✠ Gregory J Bittman
Bishop of Nelson