



DIOCESE OF BUFFALO
OFFICE OF WORSHIP

**COVID-19 Update:
Mask Mandate Reinstated for All Counties
December 13, 2021**

On December 10, 2021, New York State announced a mask mandate for all indoor venues effective December 13, 2021 which will be reviewed January 15, 2022.

Mask Mandate

At this time, masks are mandated for all participants in liturgies held in Catholic churches and worship spaces located in the Diocese of Buffalo regardless of vaccination status.

Parishes in the diocese are not authorized to screen for vaccinations, and so this mandate will apply to all who enter our worship spaces.

As in the past, the only exception given to this will be for clergy and other liturgical ministers when they are fulfilling a significant speaking role. (They should maintain at least six feet of physical distance from others during these limited occasions.)

This guidance will be revisited as the state reviews its policy on or about January 15, 2022 or if subsequent directives are issued by the diocese.