



**UPDATE ON THE CELEBRATION  
OF THE SACRAMENTS FOR SCHOOL AGE CANDIDATES  
OFFICE FOR DIVINE WORSHIP  
ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA  
**REVISED**, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2022**

The celebration of the Sacred Liturgy—the praise and worship of God by his people—is the greatest work of the Church carried out in all the parishes and institutions throughout the Archdiocese. With a genuine regard for the Mystery of Faith, it is also imperative that we continue to observe reasonable personal and corporate measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and its variants.

The Conferral of Confirmation, First Penance and Reconciliation and the Reception of First Holy Communion are to be carried out in the manner prior to the pandemic.

**In Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery Counties, face coverings are *optional* for the candidates for the celebration of these three Sacraments.**

**In Philadelphia County, face coverings are strongly encouraged for the candidates for the celebration of these three Sacraments until further notice.**

In all instances, the face covering is removed before the reception of Holy Communion, the Body of Christ.

Everyone is reminded of the irreplaceable need to be in-person for the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy. At this point, it is no longer necessary to provide for the live streaming of all liturgical celebrations.

Thank you so very much for your generous assistance in observing these directives. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [fr.dgill@archphila.org](mailto:fr.dgill@archphila.org).

In Christ,  
Father Dennis Gill  
Director of the Office for Divine Worship