



## The Diocese of Rupert's Land

935 Nesbitt Bay, Winnipeg, MB R3T 1W6

Telephone: (204) 992-4200 Toll Free: 1-866-693-4418

Email: [general@rupertsland.ca](mailto:general@rupertsland.ca) Website: [www.rupertsland.ca](http://www.rupertsland.ca)

**December 21, 2021**

### **Current Protocols and Information Regarding COVID 19**

Dear Disciples of the Diocese of Rupert's Land,

The Omicron Variant of COVID 19 is upon us, and as such, the Health restrictions for Manitoba and Ontario have changed. We can do our part to mitigate the spread of this new variant by working together, to keep us apart. We are stronger as a community if we all do our part.

These limitations are effective immediately for all the worshipping communities in the Diocese. For First Nations within the boundaries of the diocese, the Health Authority in each community will make decisions appropriate for each community. Compliance with these restrictions is expected.

#### **In Ontario:**

- Proof of Vaccination for all participants
- 50% capacity of worship space
- 2 meters physical distance between different people / households.
- COVID Safety Plan must be created and posted

#### **In Manitoba:**

Parishes that choose to verify full vaccination status of those attending services, are limited to 50% of the capacity of the worship space. Physical distancing is strongly encouraged.

Parishes that choose not to verify vaccination status of those attending services, are limited to 25% of capacity, to a maximum of 25 persons per service. 2m physical distance must be maintained by all participants.

Parishes may decide to suspend in-person worship during this present Omicron threat. Individual parish Corporations and vestries are best suited to make their own decision regarding the above choices (please email [general@rupertsland.ca](mailto:general@rupertsland.ca) with your current decision and safety plan, if applicable).

I can only imagine the disappointment and fatigue you must be feeling, especially now. I know the tremendous burden you bear, I see your commitment, dedication, adaptability and resilience everyday. Know that you are loved, in prayer I offer thanks for you each day. May the Nativity be for all of us a sign of freedom and hope, especially as we engage in the best ways we know how.

*Almighty God, Strengthen your Church to receive the timeless birth of your Holy Child, so that we may proclaim with bold perseverance among the nations your great love for all creation.*

*Give us new and willing hearts to encourage the Church to further your mission of love in the world today; this we ask in and through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*



## The Diocese of Rupert's Land

935 Nesbitt Bay, Winnipeg, MB R3T 1W6

Telephone: (204) 992-4200 Toll Free: 1-866-693-4418

Email: [general@rupertsland.ca](mailto:general@rupertsland.ca) Website: [www.rupertsland.ca](http://www.rupertsland.ca)

### Diocesan Protocols and Information

All clergy and lay leaders (Including music leaders, and staff engaging the public) are fully vaccinated,

Masking is mandatory for all participants of worship and other Church gatherings.

Record Log, for Contact-Tracing of all participants, is to be kept by the Corporation for all worship and other Church gatherings

Scientific evidence maintains that we do not contract COVID 19 from surfaces, nor from ingesting, it is transmitted as an airborne aerosol. However, it is wise to maintain regular and thorough cleaning practises.

Wine is permitted in celebrations of the Eucharist; however, the common cup shall not be used at this time. Bread can be shared by the Administrant's hand to the communicant's, carefully avoiding touch.

Non-worship gatherings can occur where Provincial and Regional health authorities permit. Please follow the local health authority guidelines when serving food and beverage in a public gathering.

While these protocols do not override any local Health regulations, they do replace any previous direction you received from the Diocese on Covid-19 procedures