



## THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MISSOURI

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### OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

February 3, 2022

*The Feast of St. Anskar, Bishop and Missionary, 865*

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Over the last few weeks, we have continued to demonstrate the ability to be nimble in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. We have adjusted our worship, our gatherings, and our ministries to keep our neighbors and ourselves safe during this most recent surge. In short, we continue to offer Christ's hospitality amid difficult times.

While we continue to live in a world that is wrestling in many ways with a global pandemic, we have seen a dramatic drop in infections and hospitalization coupled with an increase in vaccination here in the State of Missouri. Signs are hopeful that we are past the peak of this most recent COVID-19 wave.

Effective **Monday, Feb. 7, 2022**, the following guidelines and recommendations become effective in The Diocese of Missouri to further enable the safety and security of our siblings in Christ as we move into a more promising future.

- Masks that cover the nose and mouth are required for all persons for all indoor gatherings. KN95 masks are strongly recommended and encouraged.
- Physical distancing of three to six feet is required for all indoor gatherings. Cohorts or pods within the same family may continue to safely interact.
- Distribution of the consecrated wine may resume with the previous recommendation as a guide.
- Worship capacity should allow for safe physical distancing.
- Registration to attend worship is strongly encouraged, but no longer required.
- Social gatherings should be done as a to-go or the room should be set up to allow maximum physical distancing.

We continue to live in hope that we are entering an endemic stage in the COVID-19 pandemic, where all restrictions might be lifted. Know that you are in my prayers and I ask yours as well.

Yours in Christ,

The Rt. Rev. Deon K. Johnson  
Eleventh Bishop of Missouri