

December 30, 2021

Hello everyone. On Thursday afternoon, Dec. 30, 2021, Bishop Malone sent the priests & deacons of our diocese a letter which reads in part:

Dear brothers in Christ,

Due to the current surge in COVID-19 cases in North Louisiana, I hereby reinstate the following guidelines for all church parishes in the Diocese of Shreveport until further notice:

- 1) Face masks are required for those attending Mass.
- 2) No receptions or gatherings are to be held.
- 3) Those who are ill or have loved ones with an underlying health issue are dispensed from attending Mass, which I pray will **not** be for an indefinite period of time.

Let us keep one another in our prayers.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
+ Francis I. Malone, D.D., J.C.L.
Bishop of Shreveport

My understanding of Bishop's letter means that we tell people that face masks are required, but we cannot mandate that they wear face masks; nor can we refuse admittance or participation to someone who chooses not to wear a face mask.

I understand that for many the Bishop's letter and message may sound confusing (Bishop has issued a guideline that face masks are required; not that Bishop has mandated that all who attend Mass be required to wear a face mask.)

Please join me in continuing to pray for our parish. Peace.

Fr. Joe Martina
Pastor