

**COMMUNIQUÉ No. 65 – MAY 13, 2022
INFORMATION**

**To members of pastoral teams,
To priests, deacons, PCLs, LPAs,
To the faithful active in their communities,
To members of religious communities,
To Archdiocesan staff,**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

REMINDER: SYNODAL JOURNEY: we are looking forward to receiving your contributions between now and May 23. The recommended answer form can be found [here](#). For more information, please visit the microsite ([link](#)). Thank you for your commitment to our Church's synodal and missionary transformation.

1. Health guidelines update

The government has announced that, as of May 14, it will no longer be mandatory to wear masks in public places, with the exception of public transportation and health facilities. Wearing a mask is still recommended for the elderly and for those whose state of health makes them vulnerable. Source : <https://www.quebec.ca/en/health/health-issues/a-z/2019-coronavirus/mask-or-face-covering/wearing-a-face-covering-in-public-settings-covid-19>

The result is that there are no longer any health guidelines to be followed in places of worship and therefore, generally, no guidelines limiting people's movements inside the church or concerning the disinfection of spaces before and after celebrations.

Nonetheless, caution must still be exercised since we know that we very frequently welcome persons who are vulnerable on account of health reasons. Special attention will have to be paid during the first few weeks to ensure that everyone is at ease in our places of worship, both those who prefer to continue wearing masks and those who no longer wish to. Of course, a reminder should be repeated regularly that anyone experiencing symptoms is strongly urged to self-isolate, take a rapid COVID test and follow the recommended guidelines. Wearing a mask in these circumstances demonstrates concern for oneself and for others.

Therefore, we are now asked to:

- Replace the holy water in the fonts, if that has not already been done;
- Take the time to welcome the faithful at the beginning of the Mass and to meet with them afterwards as they leave;
- No longer post a volunteer at the church entrance to ensure that those entering wash their hands;

- Resume the practice of placing the Communion hosts to be consecrated on the altar in front of the priest;
- Invite the congregation to participate in the singing of the liturgy, including specifically at those places where they are called upon: the Kyrie, Gloria, Psalm, Gospel acclamation, Sanctus and Agnus Dei;
- Resume the distribution of Communion in the central and side aisles;
- Begin to say “The body of Christ” again at each communication;
- Perform the anointing directly when baptizing and confirming, as well as anointing the sick;
- Take group photos at events without wearing masks;
- Relax restrictions on use of the washrooms;
- Resume collection in the pews (without the need to disinfect one’s hands before and after), if this has not already been reinstated;
- Allow more than one person to use the same microphone/lectern without the need to disinfect in-between.

Caution nonetheless recommends that we:

- Continue to encourage hand-washing (supplying disinfectant, if your community opts to continue offering it);
- Thoroughly air out our places of worship, now that the fine weather is here, by leaving doors and windows open as much as possible (using several doors for entering and exiting);
- Strongly urge those distributing Communion in homes to wear masks during their visits, since they are coming in contact with persons who are vulnerable for health reasons;
- Exercise extreme care in giving Communion on the tongue. A priest who agrees to do so must disinfect his hands after each communication;
- Avoid as much as possible Communion directly from the common cup for the congregation, opting instead for intinction;
- Encourage people to disinfect their hands before taking Communion;
- Begin giving the sign of peace again by shaking hands or some other appropriate physical contact.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to Fr. Jean-Chrysostome Zoloshi for his generous spirit in leading the Deconfinement Committee for almost two years with such great vigilance. That diocesan committee has now ceased its activities. However, if there are still any doubts or questions that arise concerning what action to take, you may still address your concern to:

deconfinement@diocesemontreal.org.

I would also like to salute the many volunteers who worked tirelessly on our local deconfinement committees. Their work is now finished, though parishes must retain one person to monitor the situation.

2. Announcements

Postponement of the Gregory Charles Concert

The Gregory Charles Benefit Concert scheduled for May 28 has been cancelled and will be re-scheduled at a later date. We will keep you informed.

Webinars: “For a Synodal Church : Communion, Participation and Mission”

Beginning May 18, 2022, the CCCB Office for Evangelization and Catechesis will be offering a series of webinars in English (with simultaneous French translation) entitled: “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission.” The three-part series will explore the call to be a synodal Church, listening and discerning together. The main presenters will be His Eminence Cardinal Gérard Cyprien Lacroix, Ms. Moira McQueen, PhD, Mr. David Dayler and Sr. Chantal Desmarais, S.C.S.M.

Please click [here](#) to access the online registration form. The deadline for registration is May 16, 2022.

Taped recordings of the webinars will be available on the CCCB website and the YouTube channel following the last session on June 1, 2022.

In Jesus Christ, the Risen Lord,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "+Alain Faubert". The signature is written in a cursive style.

+Alain Faubert, VG
Auxiliary Bishop, Montreal