



## DIOCESE OF CALEDONIA

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### COVID-19 UPDATE #16

23 March 2022

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.

*Philippians 4:4 (ESV)*

Dear Friends:

As we prepare for the shift in restrictions on April 8<sup>th</sup> by the removal of Public Health Orders, I am thankful for God's faithfulness throughout this pandemic.

On April 8<sup>th</sup>, the following changes will happen in the Diocese of Caledonia

- **Proof of Vaccination will not be required** for Fellowship Hours, Meals, Faith Formation events, or any parish gatherings.
- **Communion in both kinds will be offered.** With this change, for some people, sensitivity and time must be taken. Educate people on the changes in the practices. First, everyone has the option not to receive in both kinds. Second, Intinction (dipping the bread) is NOT permitted. Third, create space for people to receive, so that respect for a variety of comfort levels may be given. Allow people the option to receive the element(s) or a blessing.
- **The Sharing of the Peace is permitted** as well. Again, be respectful that not all people are huggers or even hand shakers. Please be mindful of other people's comfort levels. (Otherwise, it is truly not a sign of Christ's Peace.)

In essence, we are returning to pre-March 2020 practices. The difference now is that masks are optional, receiving the Sacrament in one kind is optional, and sharing the Peace physically is optional. As there may be some hesitancy or urgency, please be gentle with each other.

We have time to talk about these changes before they are implemented.

Thanks be to God, not only will we be able to gather for Easter this year, but to do so in a fuller way. Thank you for your ministry and care for one another.

Yours in Christ,

The Right Reverend David TJ Lehmann,  
Bishop