



DIOCESE  
OF CHARLOTTE  
CHANCERY

Prot. No. VG 002/21

May 14, 2021

**GENERAL EXECUTORY DECREE**  
*for*  
*Returning to Normal Operations*

In accordance with the latest guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), which no longer recommends social distancing or face coverings for those who are fully vaccinated, and North Carolina Executive Order 215 that lifts mask and social distancing requirements in most circumstances, effective immediately parishes and the faithful in the Diocese of Charlotte are to observe the following norms.

**Liturgical Services:**

- 1) Religious services no longer require social distancing or face coverings.
- 2) Those who remain vulnerable are advised to continue wearing face coverings or attend Mass virtually.
- 3) Masses and confessions are to return to their pre-COVID schedules beginning Pentecost Sunday (May 23, 2021).
- 4) The options of receiving Communion from the chalice and extending the Sign of Peace are to remain omitted until further notice.
- 5) The faithful retain the right to receive Communion on the tongue or in the hand.

**Mass Obligation:**

Beginning Pentecost Sunday, May 23, 2021, the general dispensation from attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation will be narrowed to include only those who remain vulnerable to the coronavirus. (See attached FAQ for details.)

**Other:**

- 1) Charities and outreach efforts remain operational.

Again, thank you for your leadership and pastoral solicitude.

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**Rev. Msgr. Patrick J. Winslow, J.C.L.**  
*Vicar General and Chancellor*