

St Raymond De Penafort
"Welcome. Love. Serve."
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February 10, 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters of St. Raymond,

The St. Raymond parish leadership has always been transparent in our communication surrounding updates from the Archdiocese of Chicago regarding COVID policies and mandates. Last evening, parish staff and clergy received communication from the Archdiocese of Chicago COVID Task Force and Bishop Robert Casey, Vicar General, stating effective Thursday, February 10, 2022 Lake and most of Suburban Cook County are **now mask-optional for Masses, liturgies, and Religious Education classes**. This communication came a day after the Office of Catholic Schools announced similar direction for the parochial schools in Lake and most of Suburban Cook County.

Please keep in mind that mask-optional is only when participating in Mass, school, or Religious Education classes. **The remaining parish facilities, including meeting / social gathering spaces and the PMC, must wait until the governor's current statewide mask order is lifted on February 28 before moving to a mask-optional environment.**

Since the beginning of the pandemic, we have operated with the health and safety of our community at the forefront of our minds. Collectively, we have lifted one another up in prayer and love, adhered to protocols and guidelines, and committed to a unified approach to overcoming the challenges of the pandemic. It is with that spirit of love and unity that we continue moving forward. I ask that each of us be respectful of one another's decision on whether or not to mask for Masses, school, and / or Religious Education classes.

Let us continue to live like Jesus, "in a manner worthy of the call we have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." (Ephesians 4:1-3) And let us take time to pray for those who have been affected by the pandemic, which has lingered for over two years.

Peace be with you,



Fr. Scott Hebden, Pastor