

Clergy News

- from Bishop Colli's Office

July 20 2020

Update on Covid-19 - Phase 3

Reverend Fathers:

- With the opening of **Phase 3** in the province of Ontario we are asked to continue following all the protocols outlined in the last phase with the opening of our churches. (one third capacity, markings on pews and floors, sanitation at the door, physical distancing, washing of hands, and sanitizing of the church and washrooms, etc.)
- Phase 3 brings a new norm for Thunder Bay at present, which is the wearing of a **face mask** or covering when in all public places, including churches. This was a Board of Health regulation put into effect July 24, 2020.
- Priests do not need to wear a face mask during Mass but should put one on when they distribute Holy Communion, as should deacons and extra ministers of Communion.
- People who have a medical condition, children under 2 years of age, and people who cannot wear a mask for some other condition, are not obliged to do so. (regulations in the Board of Health website)
- Please post on the doors of your church, a **SIGN** indicating the need for people to wear a mask in your building.
- Choir members and cantors should put on their mask when not singing. Lectors or readers should do the same.
- A PDF of the instructions for masks from the Health Bureau can be found on our Diocesan website: www.dotb.ca

Sincerely,

+Fred J. Colli

Bishop of Thunder Bay