



**RICHARD FRANK STIKA**  
**BY THE GRACE OF GOD AND FAVOR OF THE APOSTOLIC SEE**

**DECREE**

Whereas, the Diocese of Knoxville has been monitoring the directives, recommendations and guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Tennessee State and Local Health Departments to ensure that all diocesan parishes have been responding appropriately to the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19); and

Whereas, access to divine worship and to the sacraments is of high importance for the spiritual good and the overall well-being of the faithful; and

Whereas, I have taken into account the rapid decline in infection rates, hospitalizations and deaths, our emergence from the winter flu season, and the now widespread availability of vaccinations, in particular those in vulnerable demographic categories;

Through this decree, **effective immediately**, I hereby remove all previously decreed COVID-19 restrictions and directives (procedures) regarding the liturgy and the celebration of the sacraments. Additionally, I hereby remove all previously decreed COVID-19 restrictions and directives (procedures) regarding parish/group events where food and beverages are served.

Note: For the time being - Holy Communion is to be given under the form of bread alone.

Given at the Chancery this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of March in the Year of Our Lord 2022.

Most Reverend Richard F. Stika  
Bishop of Knoxville



Deacon Sean K. Smith  
Chancellor

