



DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG

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December 15, 2021

Dear Parents of Students in our Religious Education and Youth Ministry Programs:

On December 10, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania issued its ruling on the school mask mandate. This ruling nullified the PA Department of Health's mandate on the wearing of masks in public schools.

The Office of Education for our Catholic schools, after consulting with its advisory board that includes medical professionals, has made the decision to continue to require the wearing of masks in our Diocesan schools for the time being. Following this lead, we are adopting the same policy for our Religious Education and Youth Ministry programs here in the Diocese.

So, please know that we ask all students, as well as catechetical personnel and youth ministry personnel to wear masks. We will re-visit the situation next month (January). We believe that this is the prudent course of action to follow, at least for the time being.

Believe me when I say that I know we shall all be happy when we can show one another our unmasked faces. God grant that this shall be soon!

Many thanks for your cooperation.

In Christ,

James F. Gontis
Director of Evangelization and Catechesis