

DIOCESE OF SAN DIEGO



Pastoral Center Communication

UPDATE ON POLICIES GOVERNING LITURGICAL LIFE OF THE DIOCESE OF SAN DIEGO

April 15, 2021

In accord with extensive consultations with the deans, as well as recent Supreme Court Cases and actions by the governor, Bishop McElroy has issued the following policy changes:

1. The only capacity restriction for indoor worship will be that six feet of social distance must be maintained for all. There is no percentage restriction or aggregate numerical limit. Family members may sit together.
2. Choirs and multiple instrumentalists may return as long as they maintain twelve feet of social spacing from one another and from the congregation. Congregational singing is not encouraged indoors, and thus hymnals should not be in the pews nor the lyrics of songs highlighted on the wall.
3. Communion may be after the priest's communion or at the end of Mass. This is a choice of the local parish.
4. Offertory collections may return, as well as presentation processions for the gifts. This is at the discretion of the local parish.
5. The sign of peace must remain without contact.
6. Reception of the Eucharist on the tongue and distribution of the Precious Blood remain prohibited.
7. Parishes that have suspended altar servers may return this ministry, as long as servers maintain six feet of separation from each other and from all other persons.

8. Masking for everyone remains mandatory, as well as hand-sanitizing for all those involved in ministries.

9. Cry rooms shall remain closed.

In addition, it is important to begin to expand once again the Eucharistic outreach to the sick, which is such a vital ministry.

In the Fall, the parishes of the diocese will be asked to carry out a coordinated multi-week catechesis on the Eucharist. It is envisioned that the dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass will end on the first Sunday of Advent.

Offices of the Bishop
Diocese of San Diego

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