



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PHOENIX

Diocese of Phoenix Statement on Continuing Public Celebration of Masses

January 7, 2021

The Diocese of Phoenix is grateful to God for Arizona's health care workers and frontline personnel, particularly during this spike in coronavirus infection cases. We are united in praying for quick relief from this pandemic as we remain focused on the spiritual and physical wellbeing of the community.

In a similar way, we give thanks for our parish pastors, staff and volunteers, as well as our school faculty and staff, for taking appropriate safety measures to ensure the continued availability of the Mass and Sacraments. These essential services provide for God's graces, which are critical during challenging and difficult times. Due to the efforts of parishes and the cooperation of the faithful in following mitigation guidelines recommended by public health agencies, we have not experienced any major COVID-19 outbreaks. Diocese of Phoenix parishes and schools will continue to take these important measures to protect public health and safety in order to continue providing the public celebration of the Mass and Sacraments.

For those who attend Mass or other parish gatherings, it is necessary to observe safety precautions, such as wearing face coverings, keeping proper physical distance from others, and practicing good hygiene. Mass attendance is limited to 35% capacity of the church.

We remind the faithful that Bishop Olmsted has dispensed the Sunday Mass and Holy Day obligations during the pandemic time. For those who are not feeling well, please stay home and watch the Mass via livestream. Those who are vulnerable or who care for others with underlying chronic health conditions are encouraged to stay home as well.

We implore the Blessed Virgin Mary to intercede for us with her Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, as we pray for an end to this pandemic.

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