

Sacred Heart Parish – Revised Covid Guidelines, **Effective June 4, 2021**

In coordination with the Diocese of Phoenix initiative – *Rising with Christ – Come to the Feast of the Lord*, Sacred Heart Parish is revising some of the Covid-19 restrictions effective on May 22 and in effect until future notice. These revisions are being made after reflecting more deeply on the great gift of the Mass and Holy Eucharist. We want to offer our parishioners an opportunity to take advantage of these great gifts in person while still feeling safe.

Sacred Heart is taking a conservative, phased approach toward moving back to 100% church capacity. This approach considers the availability of the Covid vaccine for those who wish to receive it and we believe that the procedures below represent a safe and sensible way to move forward.

The following procedures are **in effect starting May 1**:

- The use of face coverings will be optional in accordance with updated CDC and Diocesan guidelines.
- The ribbons and tape have been removed from the three front sections closest to the sanctuary. All other ribbons will remain in place for now. This open section can accommodate those who are more comfortable sitting closer to other people, including those who have received the vaccine.
- The dispensation from attending Mass remains in place, and those who are ill with any symptoms or are more vulnerable are encouraged to stay at home. Daily Mass and 9AM Sunday Mass will continue to be live-streamed. **The dispensation from attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation will end on July 1, 2021. After this time, Mass attendance in person is required, except for those unable to attend for a serious reason, such as illness.**
- The celebrants have resumed processing into the church from the Gathering Place. The prayer with the liturgical ministers before the Mass will occur in the Gathering Place.
- We will continue to suspend the use of altar servers at Mass for now.
- Holy Water will not yet be returned to the fonts.
- Missalettes and song books will be available for use in all open pews. Missalettes will also be available for those seated in the Gathering Place and should be returned to the receptacle provided in the Gathering Place after Mass.
- Distribution of Holy Communion on the tongue will now take place during Communion instead of after Mass. There will be one station only for distribution on the tongue (station H3).
- Extraordinary ministers may once again come with a pyx after Communion to obtain consecrated Hosts for distribution to those unable to come to Mass.
- The distribution of Precious Blood will continue to be suspended.
- All Confessions (Monday mornings, Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoons) will now take place in the Sacred Heart Room (and adjoining kitchen if there is more than one priest). Confessions will no longer be held outside or in the sacristy. Use of confessionals continues to be suspended.
- The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will take place for all those requesting it, including patients that may be suffering from Covid. Precautions will be taken according to the requirements of the facility.
- Mass will once again be celebrated at nursing homes, extended care facilities, etc. when allowed by the facility.

Thank you all for your understanding and adaptability during these difficult times. As we continue this journey, may our Eucharistic Lord provide us the grace and strength needed to share the Gospel to the ends of the Earth!