



**DIOCESE OF
SAN JOSE**

Statement by Bishop Oscar Cantú on the Supreme Court Decision Affirming the Right to Indoor Worship

I am pleased with tonight's Supreme Court Decision affirming the fundamental right to indoor worship in the United States. Catholic Churches have been worshipping indoors across our country for many months, and there has been minimal COVID transmission at their religious services due to parishes following stringent health and safety protocols pursuant to State and County guidelines.

Each of our parishes may resume indoor religious services tomorrow at 25% of capacity, but only when each can do so safely. While we will now be able to gather for indoor religious services, it is vital to appreciate that things will not immediately "go back to normal." Our parishes will continue to abide by State and County public health orders following capacity and singing restrictions, mandated cleaning protocols, social distancing, and face-covering guidelines.

As we continue to protect the most vulnerable among us, the dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass is still in effect. Parishes will continue to offer outdoor and livestream Masses wherever possible for parishioners who are vulnerable to COVID-19 or hesitant about indoor worship.

With this good news, let us move forward in hope and faith, continuing to take all necessary precautions and safeguards to protect life in our community as we resume public worship within our churches. Let us also continue to pray for all those suffering from the pandemic and its aftermath.