

## Policy for Volunteer Ministry at St. Raphael during Coronavirus Pandemic

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has identified those who are more likely than others to become severely ill, which means that they may require hospitalization, intensive care, or a ventilator to help them breathe, or they may even die. These include older adults and those who have some underlying health conditions.

### Older Adults

As you get older, your risk for severe illness from COVID-19 increases. For example, people in their 50s are at higher risk for severe illness than people in their 40s. Similarly, people in their 60s or 70s are, in general, at higher risk for severe illness than people in their 50s. The greatest risk for severe illness from COVID-19 is among those aged 85 or older. 8 out of 10 COVID-19 deaths reported in the United States have been in adults 65 and over.

### People of Any Age with Underlying Health Conditions

People of any age with the following conditions are at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19:

- Chronic kidney disease
- COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)
- Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from solid organ transplant
- Obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 30 or higher)
- Serious heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies
- Sickle cell disease
- Type 2 diabetes mellitus

### Therefore, the following guidelines apply for volunteer ministers at St. Raphael:

1. Each ministry will receive a number rating the level of risk involved, 1 being the lowest risk, 4 being the highest.
  - a. Level 1 ministries can be done remotely, such as coordinating, training, organizing, and recruiting. This work that can be done remotely is especially needed during this time. Examples are scheduling ministers or leading Confirmation small groups.
  - b. Level 2 ministries require going to the church campus, but can be done alone or in very small groups where social distance can be easily maintained, such as counting money.
  - c. Level 3 ministries involve doing activities on campus in larger gatherings, but not requiring close interaction with others where social distancing can be observed, such as serving as a reader or sacristan at Mass.
  - d. Level 4 ministries require possible close interactions with others, such as serving as a minister of communion or welcome minister. Those who are 65 or older, or who have underlying health conditions should not serve in Level 4 ministries.
2. No one experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 may serve in Level 2-4 ministries. Symptoms include
  - Fever or chills
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - Fatigue
  - Muscle or body aches
  - Headache
  - New loss of taste or smell
  - Sore throat
  - Congestion or runny nose
  - Nausea or vomiting
  - Diarrhea