



Starting Friday, June 18, 2021 Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish will open all seats to accommodate the faithful for the celebration of the Sacrifice of the Mass, as well as other sacramental and worship services at 100% seating capacity!

Bishop Soto is rescinding the general dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass. Starting Sunday, June 20th all Catholic faithful in our Diocese are obliged to personally attend and actively participate in the Sunday celebration of the Sacrifice of the Mass (Canon 1247), except for those who are:

- Sick.
- Have a vulnerable health condition.
- Those who are caring for someone with a vulnerable health condition.
- Have other serious reasons.

Furthermore, all faithful SHOULD continue to observe sensible public health precautions by:

- Practice frequent hand washing and use of hand sanitizer.
- Refrain from hand shaking and other forms of physical contact with others outside of one's household.
- Continue to clean the pews at least twice on Sundays and other days when there are multiple services.
- **Facial masks are still encouraged.**
- Priests, deacons, eucharistic ministers should continue to use facial masks for the distribution of communion. Communion line will start from the front pews. Those receiving by the tongue should wait in the back of the line.
- For communion, the distribution of the cup is still suspended.
- The exchange of sign of peace during Mass may resume – by a respectful bow or wave is encouraged (no physical touching with persons outside of one's household).
- Congregational singing may resume. Musicians should observe sensible public health precautions, as necessary.
- All faithful are encouraged to receive the COVID-19 vaccination when available.

Lastly, Courtyard seating (folding chairs) will be made available for those who prefer to worship Mass, outdoors.

*“Mutual respect, charity and patience should be cheerfully exercised so that all the members of the Body of Christ are welcomed and encouraged by this blessed opportunity. Over the course of the long pandemic journey we have learned the personal duty we have for one another's spiritual and physical health whenever we gather and even when we are apart. **The risks of infection still threaten us.** Our communion with the charity and mercy of Christ will help safeguard us and lead us on the path of holiness together.” ~ Bishop Jaime Soto*