

DIOCESE COVID SAFETY PLAN FOR PARISHES UPDATE

(Effective August 21st, 2021)

Due to the alarming increase of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations – the following guidelines are to be implemented in all parishes of the Diocese of St. Augustine by August 21, 2021.

NEW IMPLEMENTATIONS (Key words **highlighted** and underlined)

MASKS:

- Because not all members of our communities are vaccinated (for COVID-19), and some people may have conditions that require them to use a mask (such as underlying medical conditions), **it is strongly advised** that all parishioners wear a mask during Mass.
- Parish Office Personnel in an Office Setting: All employees **should** wear a mask when not in their personal workspace. **This should be at the discretion of the Pastor** in light of the unique situation of each individual parish office.
- All participants (to meetings) (employees and visitors) **are encouraged** **to wear a mask** during meetings. Alternatively meetings can be conducted via Zoom.

SOCIAL DISTANCING:

- Those with serious health conditions should consult their physician before attending gatherings where contact with others could put them at risk.
- Social distancing **should** be maintained and observed by all **when possible**. Family members may sit together.

SAFETY MEASURES WE HAVE BEEN DOING AND WILL CONTINUE AT SANTA MARIA DEL MAR (Some are in new guidelines):

COMMUNION:

- Presiders, Deacons, and Extraordinary Ministers (EM's) are masked during the Consecration and while giving Communion. All disinfect before and after.
- Holy Communion is given **IN HANDS ONLY**, one species (Host.)
- Ushers insure communicants observe adequate distance while awaiting Communion in lines. Placement of ordained & EM's assist in this.

SIGN OF PEACE: Sign of peace is **without any physical contact** (simple bow to each other.)

ENVIROMENTAL MEASSURES AROUND PARISH/ BUILDINGS:

- **Disinfectant dispensers** are in main entrance, by two (2) exit doors, and entrance to Eucharistic Adoration Chapel.
- All areas frequently **disinfected** by cleaning staff.
- **Holy Water Dispensers are 'Touchless'**, have ultraviolet light for dispensing safely with.

COLLECTIONS:

Collection Baskets placed in the main entrance/exit and on two side doors – They can also be done on-line (digitally).

MISSALETTES:

Have been removed. All parishioners attending mass were invited to take one before they were removed, and to bring them to mass. Missalets are available for personal use by asking the office staff for one.

ANY ADITONAL QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS PLEASE CALL THE PARISH OFFICE AND WE WILL ADDRESS THEM.