



April 27, 2021

Dear Parishioners of Santa Cruz,

Throughout this time of the pandemic, we have strived to make Santa Cruz a safe place to offer the essential responsibility of worshiping God. I am grateful for the cooperation and goodwill of everyone at Santa Cruz as we maneuvered this dynamic situation. In light of Bishop Vasquez's letter, I am offering the following instructions for our community which will take effect on May 8, 2021.

1. Facemasks are no longer required at Mass but are encouraged
2. Seating will be open to every pew except for a designated section where the faithful will be able sit every other pew
3. Communion will be distributed on the tongue or the hand in all communion lines except for the area designated with seating for every other pew. Communion in this area will be reserved for only the hand
4. Live Streamed Masses will be maintained with a simple broadcast to be utilized for the exceptions offered by the Catechism and Bishop's instruction

I am proud of the fact that our school has been operational since August thanks to the hard work of our teachers and staff. Parish ministries have been able to safely meet on campus by following safety protocols. Communion has been offered safely to the homebound. Religious education classes have continued online and in-person for sacramental preparation. In this year alone we have confirmed over 250 members and offered First Holy Communion for over 100 students. 23 people were also welcomed into the church this Easter Vigil!

You have also responded generously to the financial needs of our parish with several generous donations which have sustained us while weekly collections have been lower and without having a Fiesta. End of Year Giving in December raised more than \$50,000 in one-time gifts alone!

If this is what we can do during the pandemic, I am excited and hopeful about what we can accomplish as we come together once again. The pandemic is a reality that we will continue to maneuver. However, please be assured that we will continue to move forward, as we have, with the confidence that what we are doing is safe and essential to share in the good news of Jesus Christ.

Please be assured of my prayers,

Rev. Jesse Martinez  
Administrator