



To: All Diocese of Las Vegas Priests
All Diocese of Las Vegas Deacons
All Business Managers

From: Steve Meriwether, Director of Security

CC: Jonathan Batista, Insurance & Property Manager

Re: New Protocols – Effective May 1, 2021

Date: April 29, 2021

After further consultation with the Diocesan Restoration Advisory Council, *and in conjunction with the protocols forwarded on April 24, 2021*, Bishop Thomas and the Council have further mandated the following protocols for **implementation beginning Saturday May 1, 2021:**

Revised Protocols:

- Holy water fonts may be filled and utilized.
- Sanitizing of the pews and Church may be done at the end of each day, rather than after each Mass.
- Hymnals and missals may be placed in pews.
- Anointing may be done with the thumb. A cotton ball is no longer required.
- Adoration Chapels may be opened.
- Altar servers may be utilized.
- Offertory gifts may be presented by the laity.
- Baptismal fonts may be utilized. Routine cleaning and disinfection must continue to be enforced.
- You may have up to 12 people at a table for dining.
- You may provide table or a buffet style food service, provided:
 - each station is supervised by an employee;
 - hand sanitizer is offered to the patrons prior to entering the buffet;
 - service utensils are changed out every hour; and
 - applicable social distancing is practiced.

- Coffee and doughnut socials are approved, with the following guidelines:
 - Tongs must be utilized to retrieve the doughnuts;
 - Masks must be worn while retrieving the doughnuts and coffee;
 - Three feet social distancing must be maintained by those waiting their turn;
 - Food is to be consumed a minimum of three feet away from where the food is distributed (i.e. no gatherings at or near the location of the food); and
 - An employee or volunteer must be present to monitor the station to ensure social distancing is observed.

- Gatherings and events outside of Mass are no longer limited to 250 attendees. However, like attendees at Mass, this number has been increased to 80% of fire code capacity. The social distancing mandate of six feet (6) has been reduced to three (3) feet. You must maintain three (3) feet of social distancing between congregants that are not of the same household. For events where food is served, please refer to the above mandates.

- You may now have up to six singers provided:
 - If the singers are not wearing a mask while singing, the singers must remain 12 feet from the nearest parishioner **and** six feet from each other; or
 - If the singers are wearing a mask while singing, the singers must remain six (6) feet from the nearest parishioner **and** from each other.

This protocol will be reassessed prior to the next advancement to capacity of 100% on June 1, 2021.

Protocols Remaining in Effect:

- Communion from the chalice is still not approved. This protocol will be reassessed prior to the next advancement to capacity of 100% on June 1, 2021.

- Physical contact during the Sign of Peace is still not allowed. This protocol will be reassessed prior to the next advancement to capacity of 100% on June 1, 2021.

- The maximum number of people that may be in Mass at one time is now increased to 80% of fire code capacity. The social distancing mandate of six feet (6) has been reduced to three (3) feet. You must maintain three (3) feet of social distancing between congregants that are not of the same household. To that end, you may not be able to allow 80% of your occupancy limit due to the three (3) feet of social distancing requirement. To be clear, you must use the equation of both 80% of fire code occupancy **AND** three (3) feet of social distancing to arrive at the allowable number of congregants you may now have in any one location.

- The mandate to obtain information from attendees for contact tracing purposes is no longer required.

- Pursuant to Governor Sisolak’s Emergency Directive 24 issued on June 24, 2020 (“Directive”), face coverings still **MUST** be worn at all times during Mass, with the exception of consuming the host. Specifically, please note that this directive defines “face coverings” as:

... coverings that fully cover a person’s nose and mouth, including without limitation, cloth face masks, surgical masks, towels, scarves, and bandanas. This Directive shall not be construed to require the public to wear medical grade masks, including masks rated N95, KN95, and their equivalent or better.

Individuals not exempted by this Directive or guidance issued by Nevada Health Response shall be required to cover their nose and mouth with a mask or a covering when in a public space, whether publically owned or privately owned where the public has access by right or invitation, expressed or implied, whether by payment of money or not.

These mandatory provisions of this Directive shall not apply to ... children who are nine years of age or younger ... and individuals who cannot wear a face covering due to a medical condition or disability, or who are unable to remove a mask without assistance. Persons exempted under this provision should wear a non-restrictive alternative such as a face shield. Persons exempted under this provision shall not be required to produce documentation verifying the condition.

- Group travel may now ensue, which includes, but not limited to: retreats, scouting camp outs, etc. However, prior to any group travel sponsored by the Diocese of Las Vegas, a detailed travel plan must be provided to me for approval no later than two weeks prior to the planned event(s).
- Provided you have not reached your mandated capacity limitations, doors no longer need to be secured at the commencement of Mass. However, if you must secure doors due to capacity restraints, please have an employee and/or volunteer stationed at the secured doors to inform attendees that capacity has been reached.
- Please remember not to utilize outside speaker systems to broadcast Mass.

We ask your continued cooperation and patience as the CDC, Southern Nevada Health District, Clark County, and the State of Nevada Governor’s Office continue to update and modify their requirements

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Steve Meriwether at 702.735.1134 (SMeriwether@dolv.org) and Jonathan Batista at 702.735.2799 (JBatista@dolv.org).

Steve Meriwether

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