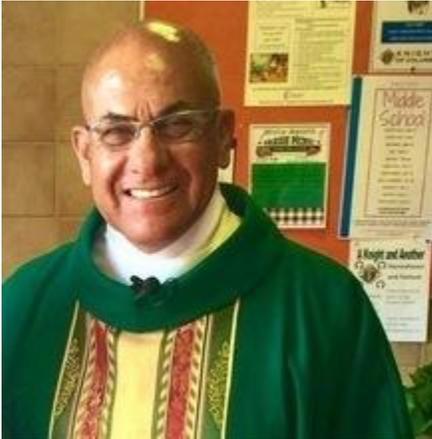


Parish covid-19 Update



WHAT IS OUR SITUATION IN SOUTHEASTERN IDAHO

As you may know, there has been a rapid rise of new COVID cases and hospitalizations in southeastern Idaho. For example, our most recent health department data shows [over 100 active cases in Bannock County](#) alone. We have even experienced the hospitalization of several of our parishioners, and sadly the recent loss of one of our longtime parishioners to complications from this most recent COVID outbreak. In response to this alarming rise in local cases, I have re-convened our COVID task force made up of key lay leadership to help determine our best path forward as a parish community. We understand this is an emotionally charged issue. But for us, this is not a political issue, but rather an expression of Christian love for our neighbor and part of our responsibility to the common good.

THE DIOCESE OF BOISE'S LATEST GUIDANCE

The latest instruction from Bishop Peter encouraged our schools to follow the current CDC guidelines, and local health district guidance. Bishop Peter continues to ask his parish pastors to make health and safety decision for their parishes in a similar manner, based on local conditions, and according to directives from health departments.

HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC COMMUNITY PROTOCOLS

After extensively reviewing all the latest statistics and guidance for our area, and with the help of our parish COVID taskforce, I am recommending the following safety measures that will go into effect Monday, August 16th. These protocols will not be as extensive as earlier ones, but we are hopeful they will sufficiently mitigate the spread of the virus in our community. These protocols will be reviewed and adjusted as needed every two weeks.

Beginning the week of August 16th:

- Stay home if you have any COVID symptoms.
- We strongly invite everyone to wear a face covering while you are at Mass, participating in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and when attending any events or meetings held in our parish buildings. Your mask should cover your mouth and nose and should be worn at all times. Masks will be provided at our entrances for those who may need one.
- Before entering our public spaces, please sanitize your hands. We will again provide

hand sanitizing stations at every entrance and exit.

- At this time, there will be no change in the way we distribute communion.

The 11am English Mass, 1pm Spanish Mass, and at least one weekday Mass will continue to be livestreamed. Please see our website, bulletin, and Facebook page for updates on live-streaming.

We know this resurgence is both frustrating and alarming to many of you. Our ultimate aim is the safety and wellbeing of our spiritual family and our local community, and we deeply appreciate your cooperation with these protocols.

God bless you and keep you,
Fr. Henry Carmona
August 15th, 2021