

# New Temporary Covid Restrictions

We are so tired of the changes; however, we are back at it again. Over the past weekend, we experienced an uptick in the number of infections and deaths. So, I consulted with our staff and the bishop's office to decide what to do. I will follow the advice of the Diocese to "go to purple". For us this means that only the liturgical ministers (no more than 10 persons) who are needed for Masses and devotions may be present. These restrictions will last until the morning of the 19th.

Out of an abundance of caution, with diocesan approval, and with concern and care for our parishioners, owing to the upsurge of positive tests and infections in the Valley—and especially in our own parishes—we are taking the following further actions:

1. For the weekends of December 5th & 6th, and 12th & 13th, we will be live streaming masses only from St. Joseph's on the weekend Masses. That includes:
  - a. Saturday 9:30 AM,
  - b. Saturday 5:00 PM.
  - c. Sunday 10 AM in English,
  - d. 12 noon in Spanish will be moved FROM Center TO Monte Vista.
2. There will be no weekend Masses at the other parishes or missions during this time.
3. We will continue to have all regularly scheduled weekday masses at their regular locations and times with the limit of 10 persons until Dec. 22nd. All Masses at St. Joseph's will be live streamed.
4. The anticipated and Holy Day Masses for the Immaculate Conception (December 7-8th) will be only at Saint Joseph's, and they will be live streamed.
5. All devotions have "in person" restrictions of no more than 10 persons.
  - a. The Novenas of Our Lady of Guadalupe and of the Nativity, scheduled for Saint Francis Jerome will be limited to 10 persons.
  - b. The Mass for Our Lady of Guadalupe will be celebrated in Center, with only the liturgical personnel needed for the celebration.
6. We will only have Funeral Burial/graveside services until further notice. We will be glad to schedule a Mass intention for your beloved deceased at the soonest possible opening on our parish Mass Intentions Calendar.
  - a. Though there will be no Funeral Masses until further notice (once it is safe again) we will be glad to schedule and celebrate a Memorial Mass for those we have buried from our churches. There will be no charge for the church or the clergy. If you desire a musician, that fee must be paid.

Furthermore, I want to remind you of the general rules for coming to Church:

1. If you are sick, please do not come to church.
2. If you think that you may have been exposed to someone who has COVID, or if you know you have been exposed to someone who has COVID, please do not come to church.
3. If you traveled to another city, or had visitors from elsewhere, please voluntarily quarantine yourself, if possible.
4. If you have a fever, you should stay home. Remember that fevers are a poor indicator of the presence of the Coronavirus. Loss of smell is the single most common indicator that you have the virus present in you.
5. Everyone will need to fill out the contact tracing form, provide names for everyone in your group, their phone numbers, signatures for all adults and the four questions answered. If any one person cannot say no to the items 1-4 as asked, they will not be admitted.
6. Everyone will have their temperature checked and a face mask is required while in any of our buildings.

The office will be open for only appointments made in advance. Hours are T-Th, 8-12, and 1-4:30

Priests are available 6 days a week, Tues-Sun,

Advent Confessions are heard T & Th at St. Joseph from 6-7 @ SJ, and Wed from 7-8 at SFJ

We hope that having taken these measures early, we can resume our regularly scheduled Masses, etc. on December 19-20 in time for Christmas.