

Diocese of Austin

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Vicar General

Temporary COVID-19 Protocols for the Celebration of the Sacraments for the Diocese of Austin

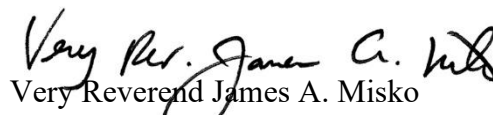
Pursuant to Bishop Vásquez' decree dated April 30, 2020, and with the recommendation of the governor's directives for houses of worship, parishes in the Diocese of Austin must follow these temporary protocols when celebrating the sacraments until further notice.

1. Inform and encourage parishioners to maintain 6-feet of distance between each other at all times except between members of the same family or household.
2. Advise and encourage the following parishioners to not attend Mass and to remain at home: (i) those who are sick; (ii) those who are 65 or older; (iii) those who have been advised by health care workers or caregivers to not attend Mass; (iv) those who sincerely believe that attending Mass will jeopardize their health or the health of a person with whom they reside; and (v) those who sincerely believe that because of the limitations imposed by the temporary protocols attending Mass is not reasonable.
3. Broadcast/livestream or promote another broadcast/livestream of at least one Mass each weekend for those who are not able to attend.
4. Provide hand sanitation opportunities at entrances and to the liturgical and altar ministers, encouraging the maintaining of social distancing.
5. Encourage the faithful to wear facemasks during liturgies.
6. Disinfect pews and other regularly touched surfaces after each liturgy.
7. Train liturgical and hospitality ministers in fulfilling these protocols and establish a self-screening protocol for all ministers each time they serve. Place visible signs to remind parishioners of hygiene protocols.

These requirements apply to all liturgies.

These temporary protocols remain in effect until repealed.

Published on April 30, 2020


Very Reverend James A. Misko
Vicar General