



Office of the Bishop

Diocese of Fresno

MEMORANDUM

To: All Priests, Deacons and Parish Administrators

From: Most Reverend Joseph V. Brennan, D.D.

Date: June 13, 2020

RE: EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY-DIOCESE OF FRESNO INSIDE CHURCH SERVICES TO STOP

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY: ALL CHURCHES IN, FRESNO, MADERA, MERCED, KINGS AND TULARE COUNTIES ARE TO BE CLOSED - INCLUDING PARISH OFFICES.

Governor Newsom has ordered the stopping of all inside church services, effective immediately.

**** KERN, INYO AND MARIPOSA COUNTIES ARE TO REMAIN OPEN PER DIOCESAN COVID-19 GUIDELINES.**

Below are the only church services that can be accommodated at this time:

- Inside live streaming or taped church services. A maximum of ten persons can be onsite/ inside the church- this number includes all essential crew and religious personnel to complete the live stream or taped church Mass.
- Outside church Masses can continue if the outside temperature is 90 degrees or under.
- A Maximum of 100 parishioners are allowed at any one Mass gathering- No exceptions.
- Due to the temperature of summer- please have lots of water available.
- Bathrooms must also be open and cleaned regularly after each Mass.
- **Facemasks are required- No exceptions- (Per previous Diocesan COVID-19 Guide).**
- **6- foot distancing is required- No exceptions.**
- **NO SINGING IS ALLOWED- EVEN OUTSIDE- NO EXCEPTIONS.**
- Due to mask requirements please set up a station- side area with water and shade for persons feeling heat exhaustion or if fainting occurs.
- Congregants are encouraged to bring their own chairs.
- All sacrament Masses are allowed outside- Baptism, Wedding, Funeral, First Communion and Confirmation- if the proper social distancing and all safety guidelines are adhered to.

- No drive through Masses are allowed.
- Only essential office personnel can come to work at this time.
- The church offices are CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC - NO EXCEPTIONS.

A more detailed amendment to the Diocese of Fresno COVID-19 guidelines will be out before this week's end with additional guidelines regarding COVID-19 outbreak guides and specific concerns.

Please call Risk Management Department (559) 488-7473 with any questions.

GOD Bless you, be strong and be healthy!