

Protocol for Liturgy following COVID restrictions lifted

Fr. Charles E. Zach, pastor

St. Henry Catholic Church

Date: July 1, 2021

Since restrictions are lifted in Oregon by Governor Brown, effective July 1, 2021, St Henry Parish establishes the following protocol for liturgy celebrations and gatherings in our buildings. This will be announced at all weekend Masses on July 3-4 and posted on our website and in our bulletin. The protocol will take effect on the weekend of July 11-12, in order to prepare for the changes.

The new guidelines have been approved by Archbishop Sample to replace all previous pandemic protocols established by the Archdiocese. Additionally, effective July 16, 2021, the archbishop rescinds (cancels) “the dispensation from the obligation to attend Holy Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation.”

Implementation of the new guidelines is left to the prudential judgment of the pastor. “Pastors and their staff are encouraged to foster the life and activities of the parish with renewed enthusiasm. This applies to all faith gatherings and parish activities including sacramental preparation programs, faith formation, bible studies and vacation bible schools.”

1. All indoor liturgical celebrations and faith gatherings are allowed to take place without capacity limitations, social distancing, sign-up systems, or segregation between those vaccinated and those unvaccinated.
2. Masks may be worn but are not required.
3. Liturgical practices:
 - A. the Precious Blood will not be offered to the faithful.
 - B. the Sign of Peace will not be exchanged through physical contact.
 - C. Holy Water fonts will not be available.
 - D. We return: *to presentation of gifts by selected families.*
to the normal process of offertory collection by the ushers.
to communion procession with the ushers releasing the pews.
 - E. For those parishioners who attend liturgy and still feel health-compromised, we reserve the seating space next to the tabernacle.
4. Cleaning after Masses and gatherings is no longer required.
5. Social gatherings (coffee and donuts, wedding and funeral receptions, etc.) may take place with sensible health precautions. Good ventilation in the gathering spaces is encouraged. We are presently limited to gathering spaces during construction.
6. Live-streaming Masses will continue in the future.
7. Our parish will begin reserving our classrooms for parishioner meetings and for rentals starting July 16.