



## Diocese of Austin

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Vicar General

### **Temporary COVID-19 Protocols for the Celebration of the Sacraments for the Diocese of Austin Updated as of July 28, 2020**

Pursuant to Bishop Vásquez' decree dated April 30, 2020, parishes in the Diocese of Austin must follow these revised temporary protocols when celebrating the sacraments, until further notice. These revised protocols replace those published on July 1, 2020.

1. Attendance at liturgies is not to exceed 50% of full seating capacity of churches or buildings in which they are celebrated.
2. Parishes are to encourage households to maintain safe distance between each other at liturgies.
3. Parishes are to encourage the following parishioners to remain at home and join the community through the livestreamed Mass: (i) those who are sick; (ii) those who have been advised by health care workers or caregivers to not attend Mass; (iii) those who sincerely believe that attending Mass will jeopardize their health or the health of a person with whom they reside (for example - those who are 65 years or older or those who suffer from severe health conditions).
4. Parishes are to provide hand sanitizing opportunities at entrances and to the liturgical ministers serving at Mass.
5. Parishes are to encourage the faithful to wear face masks at liturgies.
6. Parishes are to encourage the distribution of Holy Communion in the hand (the species of bread).
7. Parishes are to disinfect the pews and other regularly touched surfaces after each liturgy.
8. Parishes are to return to the regular pre-pandemic schedule for Sunday and daily Mass and confessions by September 13, 2020.

These temporary protocols apply to all liturgies and remain in effect until updated or rescinded.

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Very Reverend James A.  
Misko Vicar General