



Santa Cruz Roman Catholic Parish

Discalced Carmelite Friars

1220 S. 6th Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85713

Phone: 520-623-3833 Fax: 520-903-2742

website: santacruzchurchtucson.com

email: avemariasc@hotmail.com • Facebook: Santa Cruz Parish



January 5, 2021

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts, 2Cor. 4:6.

I am writing to you today to inform you that Bishop Edward Weisenburger has made a change in protocols for our public worship and ministry. The essentials of his message are as follows:

In light of substantial spikes in Covid-19 virus transmission, along with substantially increased critical hospital census numbers, the following changes to Diocese of Tucson protocols are in effect as of January 8, 2020. They shall remain in effect for four weeks, until February 5th, with a review taking place early in the week of February 1st.

- Both Sunday and weekday indoor Masses or gatherings are suspended. Masses may be celebrated outdoors in accord with existing protocols.
- Funerals and weddings may be celebrated indoors but are limited to a maximum of 25 persons; baptisms are limited to a maximum of ten persons. No gatherings before or following these celebrations are allowed on parish or church property.
- Pastors are strongly encouraged to provide pastoral care through Masses celebrated for the people via the internet as well as providing Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Penance outdoors.
- During this same four-week period, parish offices must close to the public.
- Parish staff shall work from home (exceptions permitted); calls left on the answering machine will be checked regularly.
- Those persons identified in the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines as "high risk" are strongly encouraged to receive the Church's ministry mediated through the internet while remaining at home.

In view of these directives, we will no longer celebrate Sunday Mass inside the church. The Masses in the school field will continue on Saturday (English) and Sunday (Spanish) at 3 p.m. In addition, there will be a 9:30 a.m. Mass on Sundays in the church patio-fountain area, and a live-stream Mass at 11:00 a.m. Although the live-stream Mass is not open to the public, you may receive Holy Communion in the patio at noon.

Confessions will continue Saturday at the regular time, 3:30-5p.m. outdoors in the church patio.

Please check our website: santacruzchurchtucson.com; and Facebook **Stephen Watson**; now is a good time to sign up for Flocknotes: using your phone, text **santacruz** to **84576**. Also, see the Diocesan Website diocesetucson.org

May God abundantly bless you and your loved ones in the new year of 2021.
Christ is born for us. Come, let us adore Him.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Steve, OCD
Pastor