



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



Our Lady of the Rosary

October 7th, 2020

Dear Parishioners and Friends of Santa Cruz Parish,

Grace and peace in the Holy Spirit.

I have some good news! Due to improving data related to a decrease in positivity rates, spread of the virus, hospitalizations, etc., Bishop Weisenburger has given Santa Cruz Parish permission to implement our Covid Protocols for Phase II according to the guidelines of the Diocese of Tucson. We will begin the weekend of October 10th through 11th. This letter is to inform you of the most relevant points of the Phase II protocols. There are only a few differences with those of Phase I. **New items are in bold.**

- *Bishop Weisenburger's suspension of the Sunday Mass Obligation for all persons living in or visiting in the Tucson Diocese is still in effect.* The Bishop strongly urges those in the vulnerable classifications (age 65+ or with a chronic health condition) to remain at home and not come to church for any reason. Please know that there is an inherent risk, regardless of age or health, in attending any public event such as Mass. While we are working to reduce the risk, there are no risk-free situations. A parishioner's presence at a Mass constitutes his or her understanding and acceptance of this essential level of risk. Those who are feeling ill in any way are urged, in the strongest sense, to remain at home and not come onto parish property.

- A face mask for all those age six and older is mandatory. The use of a mask is a sign of one's desire to do his or her part in helping to protect others from potential contagion. The priests are to use a mask before and after Mass especially when greeting parishioners. To observe social distancing, priests may not shake hands or make any other physical contact with parishioners in this phase.

- Social Distancing: Every other pew is taped off for spacing the congregation and those attending Mass will be seated a minimum of 6 feet apart. Families may sit together at specially designated pews.

- We will provide Ushers with masks, gloves, and hand sanitizer at each Mass. Ushers will escort attendees to available seating areas.

- The front entrance double door (6th Ave.) will be used as the only entry point. **Maximum attendance will be 125**, which is less than one-third of pew space. Attendees will exit through the two doors leading to the church patio. The church doors will remain open during the celebration to allow proper ventilation during the Mass; proper ventilation is critical.

- Signs will be posted at the Church entrance when the church is full, and you may not enter. Also, signs will be posted regarding the use of a face mask. Please respect all signs.

- At the end of each Mass, the church doors will be locked while ushers are cleaning and disinfecting the church for the next scheduled service. Designated volunteers will disinfect all restrooms, fixtures, faucets, handles, door frames, disinfect kneelers, floor... etc.

***Si desea recibir esta información en español, por favor llame a la oficina parroquial al 520-623-3833 y hable con Hada Reyes, nuestra secretaria parroquial.**

- There will be three Sunday Masses inside the church- vigil at 5:30, 6:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. The time of the Masses may be adjusted, as necessary. **There will be one daily Mass at 8 a.m., Monday through Saturday.** The same protocols as weekend Masses will be followed. The time of the daily Mass may likewise be adjusted.
- Funerals, weddings, and **quinceañeras** will follow the same protocols as Sunday Masses, especially as it pertains to maximum seating in the Church. Further instructions will be given in preparation for these Masses.

During the Liturgy of the Mass:

- The priest is not required to wear a mask while celebrating the Mass, but they will wear the mask during the distribution of Holy Communion.
- There may be liturgical ministers and altar servers at the Masses during Phase II. All ministers serving at Mass must wear face masks. Social distancing will be kept by the ministers in the sanctuary area. There will be no shaking of hands as sign of peace or holding of hands at “Our Father.”
- Hymnals and missalettes will not be used during Phase II. The parish bulletin will be available to be picked up upon leaving the church. Congregational singing as well as choir singing remains prohibited. An organist/cantor is permitted. Mariachi groups inside the church are prohibited for all types of celebrations. (Mariachi groups minus the trumpets are permitted outside.)
- **Holy Communion will take place at the regular time during Mass. Special minister of Holy Communion will be assigned. Those receiving will remain in their pews while the minister of the Holy Communion comes to them.** Communion will be received only in the hand during Phase II. Communicants will not receive the Precious Blood. Those giving Communion are to carefully wash their hands and to frequently use a hand-sanitizer after every few Holy Communions. Those preferring to receive Holy Communion after Mass outside will be permitted to do so. Those who have viewed the Mass using technology may also receive at this time. (See below for Mass times; I will determine when and how Holy Communion may safely be taken to shut ins.) Indoor Eucharistic Adoration is not anticipated, i.e. planned, during Phase II.

We will continue to offer the Sacrament of Penance on Saturday from 3:30-5:00 p.m. Masks must be used by the priest and the penitent. The location will always be a spacious, private, and properly ventilated area, either inside the church or outside. Proper social distancing will be observed.

The primary concern of Santa Cruz Church is the health and safety of all who come to this parish to pray and attend Mass or for any other legitimate purpose. The safety of the priests and staff is also of paramount concern. Our society needs an example of charity and solidarity. Being united as a parish family is a good witness of God’s love for all.

Let us implore Our Lady of the Rosary to keep us safe from the coronavirus and all other ailments as we journey together in faith,



Fr. Stephen F. Watson, Pastor

***Si desea recibir esta información en español, por favor llame a la oficina parroquial al 520-623-3833 y hable con Hada Reyes, nuestra secretaria parroquial.**