



## **DIOCESE OF CORPUS CHRISTI OFFICE OF THE BISHOP**

### **AMENDED PARISH DIRECTIVES effective May 20, 2021**

#### **For Pastoral Activities in the Diocese of Corpus Christi during this continuing Pandemic Period**

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) issued new guidelines on May 17, 2021 regarding people who have been fully vaccinated. The guidelines state that those who are fully vaccinated can resume activities that they did before the pandemic without wearing a mask or physically distancing, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations. You can read the guidelines at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html>

In light of these guidelines, the following Directives for public Masses, liturgies, devotions, social gatherings in parish halls and classrooms are offered after consultation with medical experts. These will serve to clarify the current decrees on pastoral activity during this time.

1. Public Masses continue at 100% capacity; *with*, responsible distancing.
2. The Faithful are obliged to attend Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation. The Faithful who continue to be dispensed are the following:
  - a) Those who are symptomatic or who have been exposed to another with the virus within 7 days are to remain home, in accordance with national, state, and local health directives. All attendees are asked to check their temperature at home before coming to church.
  - b) Those who are at risk because of an underlying health issue
3. Wearing face masks or coverings is no longer mandatory. Wearing them is left to individual discretion, i.e. priests, deacons, religious and lay faithful.
4. Every pew may now be utilized.
5. Use of Holy Water fonts are left to the discretion of the pastor. If the Holy Water fonts are used they should be cleansed after the Sunday Masses.
6. Hand sanitizer must be made available at all entrances of the church.
7. Proper sanitizing of churches must be done at least once a week.
8. All priests, deacons, EMHC must properly sanitize their hands before distributing Holy Communion.
9. Distribution of the Precious Blood to the congregation is still suspended.

10. In concelebrating a Mass, each priest is to have a separate chalice for the reception of the Precious Blood or is to communicate by intinction before the main celebrant receives from the chalice.
11. Missalettes and hymnals are now permitted. Parishes can place them in the pews.
12. Gatherings in parish halls are permissible. Great responsibility must be taken in these gatherings.
13. Classrooms can be utilized. The pastor is responsible for assuring that these facilities are properly cleaned and sanitized at least once a week.
14. Overnight retreats will follow each retreat center guidelines.

Thank you to all the priests for the cooperation shown over the past year in following directives and for the care you've shown the people of God entrusted to your care.

Together, let us continue to pray for all who are suffering from the Covid-19 virus, for all health care workers and first responders. Let us also continue to pray for all the deceased and their families. Relying on the motherly care of Our Lady of Guadalupe and protection of St. Joseph, let us show the same care for one another remembering the words of our Lord:

***"For whatever you did for the least of my brothers, you did for me".***