

## Greeting Parishioners and Visitors

As you might know Bishop Tamayo has issued a decree stating that the churches in our diocese will be re-opening on the weekend of June 6-7, 2020. In the document, Bishop Tamayo included guidelines that need to be followed to insure we stay in compliance and maximize the safety of everyone.

I would like to mention some of the guidelines that will affect everyone:

- Everyone over 2 years old will be required to wear a face mask, gloves are optional.
- Our parish will open 1 hour before each Holy Mass.
- Our Holy Mass schedule is as follows:
  - o 6pm Saturday Vigil Mass – English
  - o 8am Sunday Mass – Spanish
  - o Noon Sunday Mass – English
  - o 5pm Sunday Mass – English \* Please note temporarily, Sunday 10 am will be skipped.
- West Wing Entrance will be the only entrance used to come into the church. It is the entrance closest to the parish hall.
- Due to social distancing, not all the pews will be used. Sitting will be on a first come first seated basis, so please arrive early. Once the church is full, no one will be allowed to enter until the next scheduled Mass.
- When you arrive at the church, a volunteer will ask you how many people are with you. Depending on the number of people with you will determine which section of the church you will be seated. This is being done to maximize the number of people that can be seated in our parish. Keep in mind that not all our pews are of the same size.
- Please no socializing before, during or after mass, no shaking of hands. Please stay in your pew, and enjoy your time praying in the presence of Jesus in the Tabernacle.
- During Mass there will be no collection. Boxes will be placed by the exits where you can place your offering as you exit the church.
- The sign of peace will be omitted during the Mass.
- The distribution of Holy Communion will occur after the Mass has finished.
- In order to comply with social distancing, once Mass is finished, Ushers will go pew by pew and ask those parishioners who will not be receiving Holy Communion to please exit the church. Please do not leave until instructed by an usher.
- Holy Communion will be distributed once the parishioners not receiving Holy Communion have exited the church in order to maintain social distancing. Please remain seated until an usher goes by your pew and calls that pew to go and receive Holy Communion. When you go to receive Holy Communion, please take your belongings i.e. purses, phones, glasses with you because you will be asked to exit the church immediately after receiving Holy Communion.
- Holy Communion can be received in the mouth or in the hand. Receiving Holy Communion in the hand is strongly recommended. As you approach the minister, you will be required to lower your mask in order to receive Communion. If you elect to receive Communion in the hand, you will be asked to remove both gloves if you are wearing gloves. If you elect to receive Communion in the mouth, the minister will need to sanitize his hands immediately afterwards. This is being done to protect everyone, please do not be offended.
- The reason everyone is being asked to leave the church after receiving Holy Communion is to avoid any small gatherings of parishioners inside the church. Once all parishioners have exited the church, a group of volunteers will be cleaning the church in order to maximize the safety of everyone and to ensure the church is sanitized prior to the next scheduled Mass.
- Confessions will be held in an open area of the church (not enclosed confessionals). Priest and penitent must wear a face mask and have an additional cloth screen between them. Due to the current conditions, face to face confessions are discouraged at this time.
- We ask that everyone please be patient and follow the instructions given to you. This is all new to everyone, and we are learning and adapting to the guidelines provide to us. The guidelines can be found on the diocese website. We encourage everyone to please read them. They are available in English and in Spanish. The link is: <https://www.dioceseofaredo.org/decreed-phased-restoration-public-worship>. Do not see the guidelines as something negative, but as something positive since your health is a top priority.

Let us rejoice and be glad!