

MEMORANDUM

May 26, 2020

From: Bp. Menees

Re: Gathering of the Saints for Worship

On May 25th Governor Newsom put out his “Guidance for Places of Worship.” The following guidelines are required for the opening of public worship in the Diocese of San Joaquin in addition to the guidance put out by the governor.

1. Congregations are NOT required to open for public worship. Any decision to do so should be well reasoned and in line with the 2nd commandment – Love of neighbor.
2. June 7th is the earliest that congregations shall gather for in-person worship.
3. Every congregation must develop, prior to opening, their own internal guidelines based on diocesan guidelines and the governor’s guidance including but not limited to:
 - a. Training of servers,
 - b. Cleaning teams,
 - c. Follow up for people who are, or appear to be ill.
 - d. Monitoring access and egress through chokepoints so that distance is maintained.
4. Masks are required for all present including the celebrant and servers.
5. Each congregation should have new unused masks available for people who arrive without them.
6. The Celebrant should sanitize his hands before the service, immediately before celebrating and again before distribution of Holy Communion.
7. The Celebrant consecrates only enough wine for himself to receive on behalf of the community.
8. When celebrating the Celebrant should cover the hosts with a napkin or purificator. The priest’s host rests on top of the napkin or purificator.
9. Distribution of communion, if there is distribution, is to be done so that proper distance may be maintained between communicants.
10. There is to be no coffee hour or distribution of food outside the communion host.
11. These guidelines will be reviewed monthly

END MEMO