

Memorandum

Date: May 8, 2020
To: Clergy of the Diocese of San Joaquin
From: Bp. Menees
Re: Suggested Guidelines for In Person Worship

Following up on our Zoom call last week the following protocols are strongly suggested to be in place for “in person” worship once the State and Local officials give us permission. Please refer to the document I sent out re: CDC Guidelines for Faith Communities – the following is a brief synopsis.

1. People need to be advised to self-select and stay home if they do not feel completely well in any way.
2. Church needs a deep cleaning before and after each service – using disinfectant on all surfaces that people may touch including the communion vessels.
3. Hand sanitization bottles should be at the entrance of the church for people to sanitize their hands upon entry.
4. People need to sit at least 6 feet apart unless they are family living in the same home. Family not living in the same home need to sit six feet apart.
5. No sharing of prayer books or hymnals.
6. No passing of the collection plate.
7. No shaking of hands or hugging at the passing of the peace.
8. Wearing of a mask is recommended by all.
9. Celebrant should sanitize his hands before the service, immediately before celebrating and again before distribution.
10. The Celebrant consecrates only enough wine for himself to receive on behalf of the community.
11. 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.
12. People should be asked to come to the altar rail in such a way that they can maintain the six-foot distance.
13. Recommended no coffee hour – if a coffee hour takes place maintain social distancing, no shared food, and out-of-doors if at all possible.