



Revised Guidelines for Mass and other Liturgical Celebrations Effective 6/15/21

General Directives

1. The dispensation from the obligation to participate in Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation remains in place at this time. The obligation will be reinstated the weekend of June 26-27. Those who are not comfortable attending in-person may request further dispensation from their pastor. Those who are ill, vulnerable to serious illness, or caring for a vulnerable person have a serious reason to refrain from participation in Sunday Mass and do not need a special dispensation.
2. Those who have symptoms consistent with COVID-19, or are not feeling well, must not attend Mass.
3. Livestreamed liturgies should continue to be provided for those who are unable to attend (this should become a normal component of a parish's ministry to parishioners who are ill and homebound).
4. The option of outdoor liturgies may continue when helpful.
5. Those present who are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19 must wear a mask which covers the nose and mouth, unless otherwise exempted. This is to be done on an honor system, rather than by verification. Unvaccinated individuals do not need to wear a mask outdoors when able to distance. Children under 2 and those with breathing problems, or those not able to remove the mask themselves, should not wear one.
6. Physical distancing is no longer required (even for those who are still required to wear a mask), and previous capacity limits no longer apply.
7. Although restrictions have been lifted, some may not feel comfortable without distancing at this point; parishes should make accommodations, whether by having a dedicated section of the church where masks and social distancing are required or continuing outdoor services.
8. For indoor services, ventilation should be taken into consideration in accord with CDC and state guidelines: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/ventilation.html>
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Interim-Guidance-for-Ventilation-Filtration-and-Air-Quality-in-Indoor-Environments.aspx>
9. At this time it is encouraged that confession be offered indoors. Smaller rooms, including confessionals, may be used at the discretion of the pastor (consider the needs of those who may not be vaccinated and/or may not yet feel comfortable using a small, enclosed space).



10. Holy water should be made available to the faithful. Fonts may be used, but should be cleaned in the same manner as other high-touch surfaces (at least once a day when many people use them).¹

11. Those involved in visits to the homebound must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19, and should take any necessary precautions, such as practicing distancing and wearing a mask if the person being visited is vulnerable or not fully vaccinated.

12. Congregational singing is permitted. Hymnals and missalettes may be used. Musicians follow the same guidelines for masking as the rest of the congregation.

13. Other events, meetings of parish groups, faith formation classes, social gatherings, fundraisers, parish festivals, etc., may occur. There are no state restrictions unless an indoor event has 5,000 in attendance, or 10,000 outdoors. It is recommended that food not be offered in a self-serve manner.

Directives for Mass

14. If the collection is taken up in-person, it is preferred that ushers should do so using long-handled baskets rather than passing baskets/plates between people.

15. The sign of peace may be shared, though it should be done without physical contact with those outside of one's household, such as by bowing the head.

16. Communion from the chalice remains suspended at this time.

17. Whether fully vaccinated ministers wear a mask for the distribution of Communion is at the discretion of the pastor. Ministers should continue to sanitize their hands before and after distribution of Communion.

18. With the lifting of most restrictions, it is expected that the normal complement of lay ministers (servers, readers, etc.) serve at Mass.