

Archdiocese of Santa Fe

Vicar General

MEMO

To: Pastors, PLCs, other Priests, Religious and Catholic Center Staff

From: Vicar General

Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020

Re: Periodic Communication

Dear all,

Reiterations on some of the current restrictions.

- Communion to be received in hand only.
- Mass remains at 25% capacity in the church, with NO congregational singing. No choir; only one cantor for singing.
- No groups (prayer, study) over 5 persons, and attending persons should be masked and socially-distanced. Exception is Mass and blood drives—each at only 25% capacity under same preventive restrictions.
- Anointing of the sick should be delayed unless serious danger of death exists. Last rites for non-COVID patients can be celebrated, but minimize the time spent so as to minimize possibility of cross-infection. If at a hospital/facility, call ahead to see what the most current procedures/permissions may be. For COVID patients and others, indulgences are available and described at this [link](#).
- Graveside services may be held as long as no more than 10 persons at a time—masked and socially-distanced—are at the grave at one time.

The Archbishop reminds that the promulgated restrictions are not optional, but clergy are under obedience to follow them without casuistry.

The Archbishop also would like priests to emphasize:

- Communicants receive in hand with mask on, move aside several feet away from others, bring mask down and then consume. This will hopefully minimize risk of spreading infection.
- Those receiving Holy Communion should offer private prayers of thanksgiving afterwards—outdoors, in their vehicles, when they arrive home, etc.
- Fiestas are to be minimized this year because of danger of infection, limited to Masses under the then-current restrictions. No food sales, large transfers of materials (auction tickets, etc.) or group gatherings. While this may create a financial hardship, the focus must be on protecting life and health and recognizing the reality of the pandemic and its dangers.
- Clergy/staff are encouraged to be tested for COVID-19 regularly in order to monitor their health condition. An infected person can be asymptomatic and yet contagious.

Thoughts and prayers,

V. Rev. Glenn Jones
Vicar General