

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we continue in this sacred time of Advent preparing for the annual celebration of the Nativity of the Lord, we are mindful of an uptick in COVID-19 cases in Williamson County and Central Texas. We would like to thank you for your generous and patient efforts during these challenging months, and also ask for your continued cooperation, especially as we anticipate increased crowds at Masses during these holy days.

As a reminder, the following protocol for the mitigation of the spread of COVID-19 remain in effect in our parish.

- **We strongly encourage those attending Mass to wear masks or scarfs** over their mouths and nose inside the church building to help prevent the spread of the virus. This is especially important as our Mass attendance continues to increase.
- **We continue to ask the faithful to maintain safe distancing.** In order to ensure social distancing, Masses are still limited to 50% of capacity, about 600 persons/family units spaced *four feet apart*.
- **We will continue to provide hand sanitation stations at the entrance of the church, and we will continue to clean and disinfect the pews and other regularly touched surfaces between Masses.**
- **At Sunday Mass, we will continue the practice of having ushers seat those coming for Mass.** While we realize that this is an imposition and inconvenience, we believe it is necessary to ensure safe distancing and to guarantee that the church is emptied and cleaned in a timely fashion prior to the next Mass.
- **We will not be passing the collection plates during the Offertory.** The baskets will remain next to the exits as they have been for the past few weeks. Please consider signing up for [online giving](#) as an alternative to placing an envelope in the collection plate.
- **We continue to strongly encourage the faithful to receive Holy Communion in the hand.** For those who intend to receive Holy Communion on the tongue, we remind you to line up in the narthex when your pew is dismissed for Communion. The Priest and Deacon will come to the narthex to distribute Communion after they finish in the main nave.

The past few months have been very difficult for many people in our parish, diocese, country, and world. As Christians, we take solace in St. Paul's words to the Romans: "For we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose." With that in mind, these times have also afforded us an opportunity for spiritual renewal through intense prayer and the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Thus, even in the midst of tribulation we continue our important work of continuing to build up and further the Kingdom of God. We are grateful for your many sacrifices and prayers that you have contributed to this holy effort. Assuring you and your families of our continued prayers and support in this Advent season, we remain,

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Rev. Luis Alberto Cáceres and Rev. Henry Finch