

## STATEMENT

# Archbishop John C. Wester Announces Directives for the Public Celebration of the Eucharist Beginning April 24-25, 2021

ALBUQUERQUE – Friday, April 23, 2021—IMMEDIATE RELEASE—Archbishop John C. Wester has announced directives for the public celebration of the Eucharist beginning this weekend, April 24-25. Parishes in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe will continue to follow the State of New Mexico’s recommendations as outlined in the Public Health Order dated April 23, 2021. However, the Archbishop requests that the Reverend Pastors continue to follow the color coding system as to capacity for indoor Masses and do not allow 100% attendance at this time. Archbishop Wester states, “It is of paramount importance to remember that the Church values everyone's safety and well-being. Life is sacred and we are taking every precaution to protect our people from the coronavirus.”

The general directives previously promulgated remain in place and may be found below:

- One hundred percent capacity of any outdoor Mass with masks and social distancing
- Indoor Masses are limited to the more restricted color code capacity
- **Dispensation from Sunday obligation remains for all.**
- Safety/ common good is priority. Coordination with staff will be essential, as will be clear and detailed communication to the people.
- Local pastors can make these directives more stringent as necessitated by local conditions; however, they cannot make them less strict.
- Reopening continues to be accomplished in phases.
- The Archbishop/Vicar General will continue to offer live stream/recorded Masses each Sunday (St. Francis Cathedral) and weekdays (Catholic Center), and parishes are encouraged to do so as well.
- Social distancing/masks/increased cleaning are mandatory for all venues. Each measure presents an additional layer of protection, which individually may be insufficient.
- It is highly recommended that cleaning staff should be present to disinfect commonly-touched surfaces after each Mass (pews, door handles, rails, etc.) Have on hand ample cleaning supplies, and masks if possible.
- Persons over 60 and with compromised immune systems should be pre-advised that they are at increased risk and be encouraged to remain home.
- Please communicate that these guidelines are for the safety of lives and health for themselves and neighbors, and that continued opening depends on everyone’s cooperation.
- The archdiocese remains responsive to changes in conditions/requirements, and will revise these instructions periodically as necessary.