



ST. THÉRÈSE OF CARMEL

June 18, 2021

Dear St. Thérèse of Carmel Family,

On June 15th, the California Department of Public Health provided updated guidance pertaining to state and county regulations relaxation of COVID restrictions. Questions have been asked regarding the policies that we will be following.

In response to the latest news, the bishops met and consulted with the Executive Board of the Presbyteral Council and the Board of Deans to further discuss the lifting of restrictions in the Diocese of San Diego. In a letter to all priests, Bishop McElroy provided the following updates:

- All the restrictions on capacity and spacing for worship and all limitations on meetings and social activities are lifted as of today (June 17, 2021).
- Masks will be optional, recognizing that the CDC recommends the practice of wearing masks for those who have not yet been vaccinated.
- Distribution of the Eucharist will resume on the tongue and will continue in the hand.
- The reintroduction of the shared cup will be determined sometime in the future.
- Alterations in liturgical spaces and practices necessitated by the pandemic can now cease at the discretion of the pastor.
- Holy water fonts at the side doors will be filled and a bowl of holy water placed on the Baptismal Font. The Baptismal Font will be filled as soon as some much-needed repairs are complete.
- The collection and the Offertory procession have been reinstated. *Frankly, collections are way down, and we could use some additional help getting back on track financially. Any help you can offer would be appreciated.*
- It is recommended that non-family members bringing Eucharist to the sick should be vaccinated.



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· The dispensation from the normal obligation to attend Sunday Mass will end on July 1st. a letter from Bishop McElroy regarding the lifting of the dispensation can be found on our website.

On behalf of the entire parish staff, I want to express my appreciation to all of you who supported us over the last 18 months and would also like to apologize for my inability to provide the sacraments to you when we initially shut down in March of 2020.

At that time, it was believed that COVID-19 was far more infectious and lethal than it turned out to be. I believed that shutting down completely was the prudent thing to do, given that we lost our contract with our janitorial services provider, and had no way to ensure that we were keeping the campus sanitary and safe.

Like you, I am looking forward to a bright summer and to resuming the many activities that have made the experience of parish life, here at St. Thérèse of Carmel Catholic Church, so rich. It will take some time, but I know, with the community's help, that we can get back to normal.

Just a reminder, I am out of the office until July 3 visit family and taking care of my parents. I look forward to seeing you when I return.

Many thanks and God Bless,

Rev. Chris Tozzi, Pastor