

Protocols for Masses

Beginning the Weekend of March 13-14

At this time you have all heard that Governor Gregg Abbot has eliminated the limitation of the number of peoples that can gather for an event and also the use of the Mask beginning Wednesday, March 10, 2021. He stated that business can operate at 100% occupancy.

My concern is that unless the six-foot required for Social Distancing is lessened or eliminated, the 100% occupancy is meaningless. My concern is this: *I would like to increase the number of people who could attend Mass to a much larger number that is presently possible.*

This morning I spoke to some members of the medical community here in Amarillo. My suggestion is this: we *eliminate the six-foot Social Distancing requirement* to allow more of the faithful to attend each Mass. However, to insure a safe place to worship *the Face Mask will be required for those who wish to attend Mass in Person.*

It was also suggested that if the *pews continue to be sanitized before each Mass*, and that *each attendee wears the Face Mask*, the *empty pew between pews can be eliminated.*

The *Sign of Peace* will continue to be eliminated. *Holy Communion* will continue to be given only in the hand.

In the last few weeks the dominance of the Coronavirus, COVID-19, has been lessened. Your cooperation with these protocols can help to sustain this downward trend. We are in Lent, a Season of introspection, penance, mercy and humility seeking to be more like the Lord Jesus, *“Who came not to be served, but to serve and give his life for the ransom of many”* (Matt. 20-28) Then Holy Week reminds us that *“When Jesus is lifted-up on the Cross he will draw all humanity to himself.”* (John 12:32) Let us try to imitate the Risen Lord in our gift of self for the good of others!