



June 10, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

It is with both excitement and trepidation that we look forward to resuming public masses with one mass at 10:00 am on Sunday, June 14, the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ. How fitting to gather again on this special feast of the Eucharist! If all goes well at this first mass, we will resume our regular weekend schedule on June 20/21. We will also resume our 8:30 am weekday masses on Tuesday, June 16 in the main church, following the same protocols as the weekend masses.

We will also continue to live stream the Sunday 10 am/10:15 am mass on Zoom and YouTube until widespread immunity has been developed and it is truly safe for everyone to come to church. Please note that the Church law which requires us to gather at church for mass each Sunday (or Saturday Vigil mass) has been suspended until further notice. (The Commandment to “keep the Lord’s Day holy” remains, of course, and we offer the live stream mass on Zoom and YouTube and the recorded mass on YouTube to support your prayer and praise at home.)

Our trepidation arises from our awareness that, in spite of the cautious "re-opening" of our society, the danger from the virus is greater than ever as the pandemic continues to worsen in California and in many other parts of the world. We must be very clear and honest with ourselves about this: We are no safer from the virus now than we were three months ago. We are in fact less safe as the number of people with the virus continues to grow here in Santa Cruz County and in California.

Given this fact, many say that it is foolish to resume public masses at this time. It certainly will be unless we all agree to conscientiously follow the public health protocols:

Social Distancing - Individuals and household groups must stay at least 6 feet away from one another at all times. We will be able to seat around 75 people at each mass. Reservations will be necessary. To reserve a place, go online to our website (<https://resurrection-aptos.org>) and click on the link entitled Save a Seat for Mass which will be right underneath the picture of church entrance or call the parish office at 831-688-4300 by noon each Friday (for this Sunday, June 14 only, call Deacon Patrick at 831-840-3750 if not able to register online). Registration will open up each week on Monday morning at 9:00 am and close at 12:30 pm each Friday for the upcoming weekend masses. (Reservations are not needed for weekday masses.)

When you arrive before mass you will need to stand on the social distancing markers outside the one designated entry door of the church (on the right side). The markers will extend from the entry door, down the sloped walkway to the parking lot sidewalk, and continue down the parking lot sidewalk in front of the church down to the hall.

When you arrive at the door you will be shown to your seat by a very nice volunteer! Every other row of pews will be kept vacant. Communion will be brought to you at your seat by Fr. Romeo or a Eucharistic Minister

going through the empty rows. (Bishop Garcia asks that everyone receive communion in the hand only. He has instructed us to acquiesce to those who insist on receiving it on the tongue, but he asks them to, in charity, consider the health risk that this represents for everyone. Fr. Romeo or the Eucharistic Minister will have to stop and sanitize their fingers before and after giving someone communion on the tongue).

At the end of mass everyone will be dismissed by rows in order to maintain social distancing in the exiting process. Please exit the building and go to your vehicle directly, not stopping to visit or talk with others. (We know this will be a sacrifice!) Every other parking space will be closed to aid social distancing in the parking lot as you exit and enter your vehicle.

Masks – Everyone (except those described below) must wear a mask over nose and mouth at all times (except when consuming the host). Healthcare experts tell us that this is one of the most important things that we can do to prevent the spread of the virus. (Children age 12 and under are not required to wear masks, nor are individuals of any age whose doctor has instructed them not to wear a mask because it would exacerbate existing health issues – but we urge such individuals to not come to church because of the risk of exposure to the virus.)

Screening - We must take everyone's temperature (using a contactless thermometer) before admitting them into the building, and they must testify that they have no virus symptoms. This will be done as you line up outside the door. **Please arrive 20 minutes before mass begins to allow time for the screening.**

Hand Sanitizing – Everyone must use hand sanitizer as they enter the church. Contact-free dispensers are on order, and until they arrive a nice volunteer will put some in your hand.

Worship Aid – Please download the worship aid from the parish website (a link will be emailed to you each week, as it has been since the shutdown) and bring it on your cell phone or tablet to use at mass, **or** print it out at home and bring it, **or** let us know that you need a printed worship aid and we will have it for you when you arrive. If you use a printed worship aid you must either take it home with you or place it in the recycling container at the church exit.

Restrooms Closed – Restrooms will be closed except for emergencies. Restrooms will have to be disinfected after each single use. Plan accordingly!

Disinfecting - We will spray disinfectant on all the pews and other contact surfaces after each mass.

It will take some time to get used to these rigors, but with humility, patience, a smile on our (masked) faces, and a kind twinkle in our eyes, we will make it better for ourselves and for one another. When we remember our brother and sister saints in Christ who had to endure far worse hardships in the past, we shall be grateful and willing to put up with whatever hardships we must. This is an opportunity for our saintliness to shine!

Thank you for your prayers and support as we transition to this new phase of living safely with the COVID-19 virus.

Blessings,



Father Romeo Evangelista & Staff