

## Information on Bishop's Decree dated April 21, 2021

Bishop Edward Burns issued a new decree on April 21st that allows us as a parish to open more fully as we come out of the pandemic. As we do so, it is important to realize everyone has different comfort levels. We want to respect everyone's situation, including children under 16 that have not had the opportunity to be vaccinated and may have underlying conditions.

The Bishop in this new decree still states, "All Catholics in the Diocese of Dallas remain dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass and remain dispensed until further notice." Please hear this with peace in your heart if you still need more time to return to church and as we continue to open up our worship space.

With these changes, which I will implement sometime around mid-May, the Bishop and I continue to strongly encourage those present in a church building to wear a proper face covering. I know we are all tired of wearing a face covering, but with our increased attendance week by week, which results in closer seating to each other, it will be important to protect those without the vaccine.

With this being understood, we have decided to make the following changes as we open up more fully, starting mid-May. Please note, all of our 4 First Communion Masses coming up soon will follow our current guidelines and

not change. The protocol Julie Buchanan has passed on to the First Communion parents will not change. With that being stated, for the rest of us starting May 15-16

1. We will begin having two lines going up for communion again. The bishop has decreed that the Precious Blood remains suspended at this time.
2. We will designate one section in the church, the West Transept, that will continue to be marked off with ribbons, as they currently are, in order to keep social distance. As well, the parish hall has adequate space as for those that want to social distance more fully.
3. Concerning the Center Pews, and the East Transept, we will remove the ribbons starting with the 5 pm Anticipatory Mass on May 15. Yet, we will strive to continue to social distance as much as possible, and ask that you space yourselves 2 Floor tiles apart between each family.
4. Please note that the Bishop has asked us to continue, at this time, to suspend the Sign of Peace.
5. We are slowly bringing back more altar servers and, will resume bringing up the gifts on May 15 and 16.

Finally, the Bishop reminds us that these guidelines are subject to change, specifically if there are concerns over increased cases of infection in the Diocese. These decrees will remain in effect until modified or revoked by the Bishop. Thank you for your patience as we strive to stay as safe as we can, while also participating in the worship of the Holy Mass.