



Office of the Bishop
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September 30, 2020

Dear Faithful of the Diocese of Las Vegas:

Yesterday we received official notice from Governor Steve Sisolak that Houses of Worship have been given permission to congregate in greater numbers – 250 attendees per gathering or fifty-percent (50%) of posted capacity, whichever is less. This 250 does not include clergy, ministers at the altar, staff, or volunteers working at the gathering. The Governor is also allowing churches to gather in additional on-site venues, provided there is no danger of cross-pollination of the COVID virus.

These more expansive numbers reflect the favorable medical metrics resulting from the public's cooperation with the preventive and precautionary measures outlined by health officials. The new mandate is effective 12:01 AM, Thursday, October 1, 2020. In a letter to Governor Sisolak dated September 11, 2020, I once again assured the Governor that the Diocese of Las Vegas would continue to strictly observe the guidelines that were issued by our own Diocesan Restoration Advisory Council.

It is still incumbent upon all of us to continue to observe the strict protocols that are currently in place, including:

- Screening temperatures
- Mandatory wearing of masks
- Limited congregational/choral singing
- No physical contact during the Sign of Peace
- Hand sanitizing
- Social distancing
- No Communion from the Chalice
- Disinfecting between Masses

We will continue our current registration practices in order to comply with the approved capacity limits. **The Dispensation from the obligation of Sunday Mass remains in effect through October 25, 2020** as these new numbers still do not allow for full capacity, and as we want to protect the elderly and medically vulnerable members of our parish families.

On behalf of the faithful of the Diocese of Las Vegas, I want to express our gratitude to Governor Sisolak, our State health experts, and County Commissioners for all they have done to lead us to the present moment, and to safeguard the health of our communities well into the future

Asking God's abundant blessings upon you and your communities, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend George L. Thomas, Ph.D.
Bishop of the Diocese of Las Vegas