

My Dear Family in Faith,

I am writing this letter to keep all of you informed of the significant regulation changes made by the state of California pertaining to the Covid-19 virus and the restrictions for the churches of the six counties that make up the Diocese of Santa Rosa and of course Resurrection, our home parish.

The Santa Rosa Diocese has informed all of the parishes that as of April, 13, 2021, only one of our Counties (Del Norte) remains in the Red Tier. Five have moved to the Orange Tier (Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino, Napa and Sonoma). This means that churches in these five counties can have larger numbers (50% capacity) of parishioners.

However, we are not obliged to fill 50% of the total occupancy of our church because we (Resurrection Parish) will still be practicing proper social distancing within the Church with chairs 6 feet apart and the same for the outside Masses. Thus, we are still limited to about 125 people within the Church for any services. We are able though to accommodate many more people with outdoor services, while we will continue with weddings, quinceañeras, funerals and Sunday Masses under the tents of our outside worship area on the parish campus.

In addition, on Monday, April 12, the Governor, in recognition of the Court Ruling regarding Places of Worship, has authorized a change of regulation wording. The change is a shift of language from "REQUIRED" to "STRONGLY RECOMMENDED" referring to the location and capacity limits on places of worship which are no longer deemed mandatory but are now strongly recommended.

The Catholic Churches of California and our Diocese, have tried to be extremely diligent in our efforts to provide our people with sanitized and healthy places of worship. Therefore, we will continue in our efforts to assure the safety of our people at Resurrection with the continued health protocols that we have implemented during the last year (i.e. wearing masks, hand sanitizers, and proper social distancing with chairs etc.).

Bishop Vasa wants each parish to remain committed to the safety of God's people and to do nothing that would compromise anyone's health. With each parish being different and having unique situations of concern there is not one size that fits all. So Resurrection Parish will continue to do all we can to maintain the health of our parishioners and our local community as we have done beginning last year of the global pandemic.

And finally, our Diocese has informed all the parishes that the Sunday and Holy Day of obligation dispensation - because things seem to be taking a positive direction - will remain until May 23, 2021. With that said, it must be clear to all, that once the dispensation is lifted, this does not mean that those who are anxious about returning to Mass or those who are somehow compromised in terms of health, incur any sin if they truly desire to attend Mass but decide that to do so would be dangerous for them.

In conclusion, my family please be assured that Resurrection Parish and the Diocese of Santa Rosa remain serious and committed to observing the proper safety protocols. And if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact us at our parish email.

Thank you for patience and understanding during these unprecedented times we live in and for all that you have done as we strive to work together to keep our parish a safe and healthy place of worship for all of you and your families.

God's blessings of the Risen Christ be with you all,

Fr. Aaron

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Aaron". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "F" and "A".