



**Archdiocese of Santa Fe
Office of Communications/
Social Media**

4000 Saint Joseph Place NW
Albuquerque, NM 87120-1714
Celine Baca Radigan, Director
Voice 505.831.8180, FAX 505.831.8248
cradigan@archdiosf.org, www.archdiosf.org

NEWS RELEASE

**Archbishop John C. Wester Announces
Directives for the Public Celebration of the Eucharist
Beginning May 16-17, 2020**

ALBUQUERQUE – Thursday, May 14, 2020—IMMEDIATE RELEASE—Archbishop John C. Wester has announced directives for the public celebration of the Eucharist beginning this weekend, May 16-17, 2020. Parishes in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe will cautiously begin to resume normal operations based on Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham’s Phase I Reopening Plan allowing 10% capacity in houses of worship. Archbishop Wester states, “It is of paramount importance to be reminded that the Church values everyone’s safety and well-being. Life is sacred and we are taking every precaution to protect our people from the coronavirus.”

The general directives are:

- **Attendance limited to 10% of building capacity** (per fire marshal assessment).
- **Dispensation from Sunday obligation remains for all.**
- Safety/ common good is priority. Coordination with staff will be essential, as will be clear and detailed communication to the people.
- Local pastors can make these directives more stringent as necessitated by local conditions; however, they cannot make them less strict.
- Reopening will be accomplished in phases.
- The Archbishop/Vicar General will continue to offer live stream/recorded Mass each Sunday and weekdays, and parishes are encouraged to do so as well.
- Social distancing/masks/increased cleaning are mandatory. Each measure presents an additional layer of protection, which individually may be insufficient.
- Cleaning staff should be present to disinfect commonly-touched surfaces after each Mass (pews, door handles, rails, etc.) Have on hand ample cleaning supplies, and masks if possible.
- Persons over 60 and with compromised immune systems should be pre-advised that they are at increased risk and be encouraged to remain home.
- Communicate that these guidelines are for the safety of lives and health for themselves and neighbors, and that continued opening depends on everyone’s cooperation.
- The archdiocese remains responsive to changes in conditions/requirements, and will revise these instructions periodically as necessary.

To view the complete list of directives, visit archdiosf.org/reopening

Contact Very Reverend Glennon Jones, Vicar General at vg@archdiosf.org --END