



St. Helen of the Cross

Change in Health Safety Protocols
Effective January 4, 2021

In light of substantial spikes in Covid-19 virus transmission, along with substantially increased critical hospital census numbers, the following changes to Diocese of Tucson protocols are in effect as of

January 8, 2021.

They shall remain in effect for four weeks, until February 5th, with a review taking place by the Diocese of Tucson early in the week of February 1st.

Below are the key changes:

- Both Sunday and weekday indoor Masses and indoor on-campus gatherings are suspended.
- Funerals and weddings will be celebrated indoors but are limited to a maximum of 25 persons; baptisms are limited to a maximum of ten persons. No gatherings before or following these celebrations are allowed on the parish campus.
- View Mass Online — As in previous church closures, St. Helen of the Cross will videotape Mass during the month of January. Mass will be available beginning at 6:00 AM every Sunday and on-demand throughout the day on the parish Facebook Page.
- Holy Communion will be distributed each Sunday at 10:00am, after the on-line Mass airs at 6:00am. Eucharistic Ministers will be at the stage, which is located between the office and the hall.

- Sacrament of Penance — Confessions will be heard on the 19th and 21st of January at 5:00pm in the garden area behind the office.
- During this same four-week period, the parish office will be closed to the public. Please continue to contact us via email and phone messages during the closure. You are also encouraged to continue your contributions through Weshare, U.S. Mail or by depositing your contributions in the mailbox at the office.

High-Risk Parishioners

Those persons identified in the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines as “high risk” are strongly encouraged to receive the Eucharist Spiritually through the internet while remaining at home.

A Message from Bishop Edward J Weisenburger

“It is significant to recall that in light of the Catholic Church’s rich history of spiritual devotions, most especially praying the Rosary, meditating upon Scripture, and prayer books, we are uniquely positioned to provide generous spiritual assistance to the faithful. A suspension of four weeks from indoor liturgies also allows us to stand in solidarity with those who are critically ill, healthcare workers, the unemployed, those grieving the loss of loved ones, and all those whose lives have been far more substantially altered.” — Bishop Edward J. Weisenburger

A Message from Fr. Marco Carrasco

“Unlike the period of time early in the pandemic, when in-person worship was initially suspended, we now can see victory on the horizon. A period of four weeks should make a considerable difference in the availability of the Covid vaccine for those most at risk. Hopefully it also will help us to evaluate more accurately the anticipated post-Christmas spike in infections and resulting hospitalizations.” — Fr. Marco Carrasco