

Hello Parish Community,

Considering the rising numbers of positive covid cases in Pima County and with concern for the wellbeing and health of our San Martin de Porres parishioners, especially the most vulnerable among us, I would like to make the following requests:

1. Strongly consider wearing face masks while at mass or conducting business in the parish office. The use of face coverings is highly recommended by Pima County health officials and the Diocesan Covid Steering Committee. This is especially true indoor settings when six feet of physical distance cannot be maintained. Masks will be made available at church entrances.
2. Please make use of the hand sanitizer provided at the entrance to the church building.
3. Observe, as reasonably possible, the six feet physical distancing.
4. If you are feeling any symptoms of a cold or flu, please refrain from attending Holy Mass.
5. If you have tested positive for Covid-19, please observe the required quarantine period.
6. The obligation to attend Holy Mass remains suspended for those who are ill, vulnerable, or concerned about possible exposure to Covid-19.
7. For those concerned, please attend the Saturday Evening Vigil mass, which is our Covid Protocol mass.
8. The Saturday Evening Protocol Mass *requires* the use of masks and social distancing. Additionally, we ask that parishioners at this mass continue to practice social distancing by sitting at every other pew.
9. For those wishing to receive Holy Communion on the tongue at the protocol mass, we ask that you *wait to the end of the communion line* to receive the Body of our Lord.

I understand the concern that many have regarding the increase of positive cases in our county. I am also aware that many have been vaccinated, have received booster vaccinations, or perhaps even have antibodies to Covid-19. I humbly ask that we maintain a sense of charity for the wellbeing of our neighbor in the observance of these protocols. We must be reasonable and thoughtful in our approach. I am grateful for your kind consideration of this request by your pastor.

San Martin de Porres, pray for us!

Fr. Martin Martinez
Pastor