



Diocese of Austin

6225 East US 290 Highway SVRD EB
Austin, TX 78723
(512) 949-2401 · Fax (512) 949-2524
www.austindiocese.org

Vicar General

**Temporary COVID-19 Protocols
for the Celebration of the Sacraments
in the Diocese of Austin
*Updated April 9, 2021***

Pursuant to Bishop Vásquez' decree, dated April 30, 2020, the following temporary protocols are in effect when celebrating the sacraments. These revised temporary protocols replace those published on March 5, 2021.

1. Parishes should continue to encourage those currently positive for, or showing symptoms of, COVID-19, or seriously ill, to remain at home and invite them to participate through a livestreamed Mass.
2. Parishes should continue to provide hand sanitizing opportunities for the faithful at entrances and to the liturgical ministers.
3. Parishes should continue to encourage the faithful to wear face masks.
4. Parishes should continue to encourage the distribution of Holy Communion in the hand (the species of bread).
5. Parishes are encouraged to continue to livestream masses and may choose which masses to livestream based on anticipated needs of the parishioners. Parishes should not archive the Mass on social media, the parish website, or on another website. Participating in the Mass via livestream should be done concurrent and together with the parish community in the church. Parishes may choose to archive homilies, either by video or audio, on social media or its website.

These temporary protocols apply to all liturgies and remain in effect until updated or rescinded.

Published on April 9, 2021

Very Reverend James A. Misko
Vicar General