

Social distancing protocols to be adjusted beginning March 31

Along with social distancing and mask usage, it appears that the recent increase in vaccinations has led to a significant decline in COVID-19 new cases, hospitalizations and deaths, even as Texas has fully opened its economy. These successes are likely to continue as more people are vaccinated each week. It is very important that people continue to be vaccinated, and that this positive momentum not be lost.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the Archdiocese of San Antonio has balanced the spiritual needs of the faith community with the serious physical dangers of the COVID-19 pandemic. Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller, MSPS, took swift, measured and appropriate action to protect the people of the archdiocese, and the archdiocese has continued to be vigilant for more than a year.

We must still remain vigilant, however, it seems prudent to begin to relax some of the restrictions which reduce the number of parishioners who can participate in the Mass and receive the Eucharist.

Beginning Wednesday, March 31, 2021, parishes may open all pews and reduce the social distancing requirements in the sanctuary from 6 feet to 3 feet.

It is to be emphasized that mask usage and thorough facility sanitation are still required in accordance with previous proclamations. Those protocols remain unchanged. Masks must be worn in church.

The archdiocese will continue to evaluate the health situation as more information becomes available and make appropriate changes to our guidelines as circumstances dictate.