



Memo from the Bishop

Number 79 ✕ November 18, 2020

PRESENT COUNTY TIER STATUS: According to the latest (November 18, 2020) data four counties of the Diocese have a negative change in the Tier status. Lake remains in Tier 2 (Red) and Sonoma remains in Tier 1 (Purple).

Humboldt County - From Tier 4 to Tier 2 - Open indoors with a maximum of 25% capacity.

Del Norte County - From Tier 3 to Tier 2 - Open indoors with a maximum of 25% capacity.

Lake County - Holding steady at Tier 2 - Open indoors with a maximum of 25% capacity.

Napa County - Moves from Tier 3 to Tier 1 - Outdoor only with masks and social distancing.

Mendocino County - From Tier 2 to Tier 1 - Outdoor only with masks and social distancing.

Sonoma County - Holding at Tier 1- Outdoor only with masks and social distancing.

COVID TIMES: While there was a glimmer of hope last week, this week is an entirely different story. The national increase in infections has made California more cautious and there have been negative reports from most counties in California. The increased State restrictions this week serve as a ‘wake-up’ call for us all that we cannot diminish our diligence in working to keep people safe from the COVID virus. These increased or continued restrictions are very discouraging and we need to brace ourselves and our people to hold on through the next several months since it does not appear that any significant relief will come before April or May of 2021 when the possibility of widespread availability of a vaccine is anticipated.

I again commend all of you for the great conscientiousness with which you are facing this ongoing COVID challenge! Please know that we suffer this together and I would remind you that Sonoma County is the only county of our Diocese which has not been allowed to have indoor worship for the past 12 weeks. Others, sometimes very briefly had at least a few weeks of temporary ‘reprieve’.

ST. ALOYSIUS at POINT ARENA: Since the parish is currently without a pastor the house is empty during the week. Father Moses Brown is the Administrator and has offered the use of the house for a ‘personal retreat’ during a week of your choosing. If interested, contact Father Moses.

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES: The USCCB has issued guidance about the possibility of allowing Christmas Eve Masses to begin earlier than usual. Given the effect of the pandemic, I authorize any pastor to schedule Masses in his parish for Christmas Eve as early as 2:00 in the afternoon. This is a special grant for THIS YEAR ONLY and does not change the regulation for other Sundays or for any future Christmas.

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE: This Feast falls on a Saturday but the Saturday Evening Mass, which is really a Sunday Mass, is the Third Sunday of Advent. The Prayers, Readings and Vestments are to be those of Advent. The homily can tie in the theme of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

EXTRA HAND SANITIZER / MASKS: We have about 15 gallons of gel hand sanitizer available at the Chancery. If needed, ask Kelly Righetti. One gallon per request please. Also, we have some additional masks.