

COVID 19 GUIDELINES –NOVEMBER 2020

Bishop Mueggenborg has provided guidance for the necessary changes we will be making to be compliant with Governor Inslee’s new COVID-19 restrictions. None of these changes were taken lightly and the great news is that we are still allowed to worship in our churches thanks in large part to the great work all the parishes in Western Washington have been doing adhering to COVID-19 safety measures. The changes outlined below go into effect immediately and will remain until at least December 14.

- **From the Governor:** “Congregation singing is prohibited. No choir, band, or ensemble shall perform during the service. Vocal or instrumental soloists are permitted to perform, and vocal soloists may have a single accompanist.”
 - **From Bishop Mueggenborg:** For all Masses, as well as weddings and funerals, there may be *one instrument and one vocalist*. Both must always be masked, which is a change to previous guidance.
 - ST THOMAS MORE CANTOR SINGS INSIDE THEIR SHIELD. THEY HAVE THE OPTION TO WEAR MASK TO FEEL MORE SECURED
- **From the Governor:** "Any office that must remain open must limit occupancy to 25 percent of indoor occupancy limits."
 - **From Bishop Mueggenborg:** In light of this new guidance, employees should be encouraged to work from home. *Parish offices should be operating with minimal skeletal staff and should not exceed 25% normal occupancy.* Please change operating hours so that the office is open by appointment only.
 - **ST THOMAS MORE STAFF WORKS FROM HOME AND ARE AVAILABLE FOR AN IN PERSON MEETING IF NEEDED.** We are still here to serve you, so please call us at 425-743-2929 or email a staff member to set up appointment to meet with them in person. Masks and social distancing will be required, but the same warm staff member will be happy to help you.
- **From the Governor:** “All retail activities and business meetings are prohibited.”
 - **From Bishop Mueggenborg:** Based on the Governor’s guidance, here are other items to keep in mind: *Please cancel any in-person non-sacramental indoor religious services at this time.* This means that indoor annual traditions like Christmas concerts or living Nativities should be canceled or moved online.
 - ST THOMAS MORE’S MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS ARE ONLINE AND ZOOM

Thank you for your understanding and patience. We know that this is hard on everyone but if we continue to flatten the curve, we will be able to meet in person once again. Our Masses continues daily from Monday-Friday at 9 am ; Saturday at 5pm and Sundays at 8, 9:30 and 11 am. Fr. Okumu will remain available for Confession on Saturday from 3:30-4:30. Please call the parish office at 425-743-2929 for appointment.

