

**A NOTE TO OUR FRIENDS  
FROM SAN LORENZO SEMINARY/NAPCC NOVITIATE**

**August 6, 2021**

In response to a surge in Covid-19 cases and hospitalizations, particularly involving the highly transmissible Delta variant, Santa Barbara County has issued a public health order requiring “all individuals in the County of Santa Barbara—whether vaccinated or unvaccinated—to wear a face covering at all times in all indoor public settings and businesses, with limited exemptions, and recommends that businesses make face coverings available to all individuals entering the business.” This order is in effect August 6, 5 PM thru September 5, 5 PM.

The order defines “businesses” very broadly, and presumably includes churches and other houses of worship, though it does not explicitly mention them. It provides exemptions for “performers,” including religious choirs, allowing them to remove their masks while “performing” or practicing, but to maintain a social distance. It further states: “Individuals in indoor religious gatherings may remove face coverings when necessary to participate in religious rituals.”

After reviewing a notice that the Archdiocese gave to parishes and institutions following an earlier indoor mask mandate in Los Angeles County, we will continue to offer public 8 AM weekday and 9 AM Sunday Masses in the San Lorenzo Chapel with the following guidelines:

- Everyone participating should wear a mask or a face covering that covers the nose and mouth. If you need a mask, we will have some available.
- Hand sanitizing stations will continue be in use.
- All liturgical ministers should exercise their ministries as usual.
- Singing by the assembly as well as the choir or cantor will be limited.
- It is strongly recommended that people receive communion in the hand, though they have the option to receive it on the tongue. There will be no common cup(s) for communion.
- Priests and other ministers will be masked while distributing communion.
- Weather permitting, we will continue to offer hospitality (coffee and baked goods) outside the chapel after Mass. Masks are not required.
- We will continue to broadcast the Sunday Masses on 92.1 FM and bring communion to cars parked outside the chapel.

Thanks for your continued patience. Please continue to pray for our country and world in this time of pandemic. If you have not yet been vaccinated, please consider doing so as soon as possible. –*San Lorenzo Capuchin Community*