

## CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF OSAKA

24-22 TAMATSUKURI 2-CHOME, CHUO-KU,  
OSAKA 540-0004, JAPAN  
TEL 06-6941-9700 FAX06-6946-1345

January 28, 2022

Members of the Diocese,

**Measures associated with new coronavirus infections (18th round)**

Peace of the Lord!

The new coronavirus infections have moved to a new stage with the emergence of the Omicron strain, although a certain amount of control has been achieved. Some researchers believe that this is the beginning of the end. It would be nice if the disease would come to an end as they say, but from the current number of infected people, it seems that the end is far away.

The church is a place where God's people gather and journey together for the building of God's kingdom. I would like to thank you for your cooperation in protecting the activities of the Church and the life of faith, despite the various restrictions. The Holy Mass is an important source of life for us. As the Archdiocese of Osaka, we will not be cancelling the public Masses when we apply the priority measures to prevent the spread of the disease from January 27. We will continue to apply the 13th round of measures, which was issued on June 18, 2021. Please note that this is a revised version with additional information.

**1. Sunday Mass in the parish**

- a) Please take the basic precautions (hand sanitizer, masks, ventilation, knowing who to call, no singing, as little vocalizing as possible, sitting at least 2 meters away if possible, and taking your temperature upon entering). However, if there is enough space and distance, the choir may sing or sing solo.
- b) The Mass celebrant and servers at Mass will also wear masks during Mass. However, if the pulpit is more than two meters away from the congregation to accommodate the hearing impaired or elderly, they may not wear masks during the sermon.
- c) The obligation to attend Mass on Sunday is waived for all parishioners. If your parish does not have a public Mass, please do not go to Mass at another parish.
- d) If, for any reason, it is not possible to carry out the measures thoroughly (not only physically, but also because of the undue burden on the officers and staff in charge), or if the circumstances of each place require it, please cancel the public Mass. In such cases, the priest should say, "In

such a case, the priest "has the duty to offer Mass for the people entrusted to him... on each Sunday" (Canon Law, Article 535, Section 1), and should therefore offer Mass privately for the parishioners. We also ask that you take steps to ensure that the blessings of the Sunday liturgy reach the faithful in some way (online telecast, correspondence, etc.).

e) If a parish's Sunday Mass is to be cancelled, the responsible priest must inform the block moderator, the district rector, and the diocesan office. You can also contact the diocesan office by e-mail. Please send an email to [pastor-info@osaka.catholic.jp](mailto:pastor-info@osaka.catholic.jp).

2. Masses in convents or facilities outside the parish, as well as weekday Masses in the parish, may be held as long as measures can be taken.

3. If you need to have a gathering other than Mass, please limit it to a small number of people, do not eat or drink, and take all possible measures to prevent infection.

4. If you are elderly, have an underlying medical condition, or are concerned about infection, please pray at home as much as possible. However, there is no age limit. If your family expresses concern, please pray at home as well.

The actions included in this Archdiocesan measure are for reference only. It is up to the parish priest to decide what to do. In making a decision, consider the most appropriate standard for infection control measures for events, etc. provided by the local government in the area.

Archbishop Manyo Maeda