

**The 21st LETTER OF THE BISHOP ON THE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES
FOR PREVENTING THE COVID 19 INFECTIONS**

The Right Reverend Mario Yamanouchi, Bishop of Saitama
January 21st, 2022

Re: Responding to the Rapid Spreading of the Omicron Variant of the Covid 19

Although the State of Emergency has not been announced by the Government, the medical experts ask us to make all the efforts to prevent the infections because the Infectivity of the Omicron Variant of the Covid 19 seems extremely high so that, once some were infected with the new variant, many could be infected on the level beyond our imagination.

Therefore, we, the Diocese of Saitama, have decided as follows:

The Sunday masses with the congregation should be suspended between Sunday, January 23rd and Sunday, February 27th.

The weekday masses may be allowed to be open to the public only with the limited number of the congregation.

We pray for the days to come when we can celebrate the Sunday masses again with the congregation as soon as possible. It is however the time for us to make all the effort to prevent the infections from the Covid 19, e.g., by keeping the social distance.

Thank you very much for your understanding and kind cooperation.