



Keeping Our Parish Safe and Preparing to Gather for Limited Public Worship

1. **Fundamental Guidelines:**

- **Social distancing** requirements – 6' apart must be maintained.
- **Cleaning:** Increased frequency and method of cleaning; after each service.
- **Test – Evaluate – Adjust:** Monitor the situation and adjust as necessary.

2. **Personal Responsibility:**

- **Stay home and continue to watch Mass online if:**
 - ~ you're ill or someone in your family is ill. Continue to watch Mass online.
 - ~ you're in a high-risk category (65+, underlying health conditions or diabetes).
 - ~ you have had a fever in the past 72 hours.
 - ~ you have lost your sense of taste or smell recently.
 - ~ you have lesions on your feet or hands that loosely resemble chicken pox.
- **Personal Hygiene:** Practice good personal hygiene including frequent handwashing for 20 seconds before coming to Church.

3. **General Standards for the Community: Keeping People SAFE:**

- Masks or Face Covering:** For the first few weeks, masks or face coverings will be mandatory to enter the church. These coverings protect others from germs you may have. People should bring their own masks. Some masks may be available at the entrance.
- Taking Temperatures:** We will take people's temperatures as they come to church.
- Interview Questions:** Everyone will be asked questions as to their health when they enter the church.
- Sanitizer:** People are asked to wash their hands for at least 20 seconds before coming to church. Upon entry, people will sanitize before they sit down. Automatic/touchless sanitizer dispensers are on order.
- Wipes:** The church will be cleaned before people enter. However, you are also welcome to wipe down your pew area with wipes you may bring from home, if you wish.
- Turning People Away / Denying Access:** We hope that no one will be denied access to the church; however, on the off chance that people put others in jeopardy or danger, if it is necessary Father, the Deacon or head-Usher will ask people to leave the church.
- Seating:** People from the same household will be able to sit together; people/families from different households will be asked to sit in separate areas. You cannot choose your own pew; you will assigned a place to sit.
- Bulletins:** We will continue to print bulletins and make them available each week after Mass.

4. **The Capacity of Our Churches:**

- a. Determining new capacity: **Holy Rosary:** 40 units+/- **Christ the King:** 50 Units+/-
- A unit is a person or a group of people who live in the same household. (e.g. a couple or family).
 - Units must maintain social distancing (6 feet) in a pew – both to the front and back, as well as to the left and right.
 - Every other pew will be left empty and roped off.
- b. **Congestion Points:** Please do not congregate together, especially in the entrances or exists of the church. Maintain social distance.
- c. **Traffic Patterns:** Ushers will be directing people regarding the “flow” of traffic. How you come INTO the church, may not be how you go OUT of the church. Please pay attention to directions.
- There will be tape on the floor to indicate social distancing and traffic flow patterns.
- d. **No More Missals and Hymnals:** These items have been removed from the church. You are welcome to bring your own missal to church, print song sheets from home or follow the readings and music on your cell phones.

5. **Cleaning the Church:**

Prior to opening the church and after each Mass the church building will be disinfected by a fog machine that uses an EPA approved multipurpose sanitizer for food contact surfaces named, Steramine.

6. **Mass Times:**

Saturday	4:30pm	Bi-lingual (HR) for Elderly & those with compromised health conditions
	4:30pm	English (CK)
	7:00pm	Espanol (HR)
Sunday	8:00am	English (HR)
	11:00am	English (HR)
	11:00am	Espanol (CK)
	2:00pm	Espanol (CK)
Missions:	9:30am	Espanol, Mud Lake
	11am	Espanol, Roberts

7. **Attendance/RSVP:** The first weekend we will offer public Mass is **May 9-10, 2020**. **People wishing to come to Mass must call the parish office to make a reservation (RSVP), Monday – Wednesday between 9-12pm. (208) 522-4366.** Reservations will be made on a first-come/first-serve basis. Reservations for Mass will ONLY take place during these times.
- People with a reservation must show up to church 30 minutes before the service and will be shown to their seat by a Usher.
 - Extra spaces may be available to others on a first-come/first-serve basis.
 - After the first weekend we will evaluate how better we can accommodate people.
8. **Parking Lot Masses or Video Masses in the Parish Hall or Cafeteria:** In order to maintain the strictest of standards and keep people safe, only those in the church will be invited to receive communion this weekend. After the first weekend and once we are able to adequately train ministers and volunteers, other options for distributing communion will be evaluated, such as for those worshipping in the parking lot or in the parish hall.
9. **Some Logistics:**
- a. **Entry and exit:** Entry – floor markers/tape 6 feet apart, starting outside will indicate where you may stand.
- Entrance and Exits will be clearly marked with signage.
 - Handicapped Entrance for Holy Rosary will be the side entrance.
 - Follow designated traffic flow and the Usher's instructions.
 - Please proceed to the most forwardly available pew.
 - Please do not congregate after Mass
- b. **The Collection:** Money is dirty. To avoid touching money and contamination once people have entered the church, collection baskets will be provided when people leaving the church for you to make a donation. (You'll have to play to get out of church!)
- c. **Communion:**
- Communion will only be distributed in the hand.
 - If blessing people, no one will be touched.
 - Those receiving gluten free hosts should make special arrangements by talking with the deacon before Mass.
- d. **Other Liturgy Considerations:** We are working with ministry coordinators to revise guidelines. This should be done by next week.
- **Lector** – one per mass. Revised Guidelines will be developed and distributed. Seating will be designated.
 - **Ushers** – Revised Guidelines will be developed and distributed. Seating will be designated and training offered.
 - **Music & Choir** – the numbers of those participating in music ministry will be limited to no more than 5 people. In HR musicians may return to choir loft, while ensuring social distancing. Special seating will be designated at CK for musicians.
- e. **Parents with Small Children:** For the health of the community, parents with small children who struggle to stay in a confined space may wish to continue to worship at home via video.

10. **Individual Confessions and Anointing:** Call and make an appointment for individual Confession. Ordinarily, confessions and anointing will be done in the side vestibule at Holy Rosary. Options for General Absolution is being explored.
11. **Needed Items:** Below is a list of items that we need. If you are able to assist us in obtaining these items, please drop them off at the parish office or at the side entrance to Holy Rosary Church.
 - Hand sanitizer
 - Wipe
 - Masks
12. **Weddings/Funerals:** Weddings and funerals are done on a case by case basis. Things to consider are:
 - a. Seating capacity and social distance criteria
 - b. Disinfecting after a ceremony
 - c. Entrance/exit patterns
13. **Confirmation, First Communion and RCIA:** Those preparing for sacraments are asked to continue to be patient. We have yet to determine how and when these sacraments will be celebrated. We hope to have additional information for you in mid-May.
14. **Parish Office Hours:** Parish Office Hours will partially resume beginning, Monday, May 4. Please call the office for information (208) 522-4366.

A final note: My friends, we are in uncharted waters, but I am confident that the Lord is with us. These new ways of celebrating Mass for a limited amount of people is awkward and is done in a way that falls short of expressing our beautiful eucharistic and liturgical theology. However these are unprecedented times that demand an unconventional response. Please bear with one another as we navigate these choppy waters. TOGETHER we will get through this experience. Perhaps a question to ask ourselves is: how is God asking me to live my faith in these times? How best can I express my love for God and neighbor during this pandemic? Be safe! ~Fr. Ron