

Dear Parishioners,

Your St. John Bosco staff continues to monitor the information from the Tacoma Pierce County Health Dept., Governor Inslee's office and the Federal Government regarding the continual spread of COVID-19 in our area. Our ultimate goal is the full restoration of parish life with prudence.

In light of the rising spread-curve reports by our local health department (featuring NO sustained drop in spread in our county in weeks), non-binding but sobering cautions and advice from the head of the World Health Organization (WHO), recent closures of churches around the country (some of whom only recently re-opened), and the fact that our pastor and many parishioners have underlying health issues that make us virus-vulnerable, we have made the difficult decision to **POSTPONE** our **REOPENING PLANS** at this time.

We will revisit reopening when there is at least two or more weeks of a drop in spread in numbers in our county, or at least a lower spread curve that remains static for 2 or more weeks.

At the time the Seattle Archdiocese announced reopening of parishes, there had been a sustained decrease in cases that met the requirements of the bishops and governor. Unfortunately, we discovered a major water break located under the church that required weeks of bids, construction & repair, followed by cleaning and sanitizing. Therefore, we now find ourselves at the crossroads of higher numbers today than when the Archdiocese originally closed parishes back in April.

Please know that these safety measures are being taken, not out of fear, but out of love for neighbor and utmost concern for the vulnerable in our parish community. We are fully aware that a large percentage of our community is in this vulnerable category and will do our utmost to ensure the safety and health of everyone.

In the meantime, a reminder that:

- Dispensation for Sunday Mass remains in effect. Live-streamed masses are available throughout the diocese and via EWTN.
- We will be implementing weekly podcast prayer and discussion groups on Zoom with Fr. Marc and various staff members.
- We will be opening our private prayer space (limited/space available and must sign in at the parish office).

We will keep you updated as we continue to monitor the data. Thank you for your patience and understanding. It is important and necessary that we are in strict compliance with all guidelines before opening for public celebration of the Mass.

In Christ,  
Your St. John Bosco Staff