

**Reopening Parish Information for Star of the Sea Catholic Church, Brookings  
and St. Charles Borromeo Mission, Gold Beach:  
In line with the guidelines from the Archdiocese**

**From the Pastor, Fr Justus Alaeto**

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

We have great news! I am happy to announce that Archbishop Sample has given approval for limited reopening of Masses, going into effect the weekend of May 9<sup>th</sup>. However, this reopening is only for parishes who are ready to open with the required preventive measures. According to the Archbishop, any parish that does not satisfy the requirements for reopening, as outlined from the government and Archdioceses, **SHOULD NOT OPEN** until those requirements are met. The Archbishop urges pastors to communicate their readiness of their parish to their parishioners and the date at which they can reopen.

This first phase of reopening will only accommodate a total of 25 people at Mass, including the priest and ministers. For Star of The Sea and St. Charles, I am currently working on the possibility that all eligible parishioners can attend Mass at least once a week. This will also require modification of the Mass schedule, which has already been worked out for our parish.

In addition, the Archbishop has extended the dispensation for Sunday Mass obligations. According to the Archbishop, “the dispensation for the Sunday Mass obligation remains in effect, so no one is required or expected to attend Mass on the weekends with this reopening. Parishioners will have an expanded opportunity to attend Mass during the weekdays.”

To that effect, for Star of the Sea our modified Mass Schedule will be as follows:

(Please note: at this time no other activities, such as coffee and donuts, in the church will be offered. There is only Mass. This will help us clean the church and meet the requirements and guidelines.)

**Star of the Sea Parish Brookings' Mass Schedule is as follows:**

- **Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday Mass** will be at **5:15pm** (Thursday Mass will be in Gold Beach at 5:15pm)
- On **Saturdays** we will have a Mass at **4:30pm** and **Spanish Mass** at **6:30pm**

- **Confession at Star of The Sea Brookings** will be on Saturday, **3:30pm – 4:15pm (or by Appointment)**. Confessions will continue in the parish hall with social distancing.
- Sunday Mass at Star of The Sea will be at **8:30am**

**St. Charles Borromeo Gold Beach Mass Schedule is as follows:**

- Daily Mass will be on **Thursdays at 5:15pm**
- **Confession in Gold Beach** will be on Thursdays at St. Charles from **4:35pm – 5:00pm**
- **Sunday Mass** in Gold Beach will be at **11:00am**
- **Please Note:** at this time no other activities, such as coffee and donuts, in the church will be offered. There is only Mass. This will help us clean the church and meet the requirements and guidelines.
- ***St Charles Parishioners, please feel free to sign up for Star of The Sea Daily Masses, keeping in mind that the vulnerable and sick are asked to stay home.***

**Please note:** In the essence of modification of the Mass schedule is to allow cleaning in the church before and after Mass, and to allow more opportunity for Mass.

**Reopening Date:** We are currently working to reopen our two churches by or before the end of May, **no later than Saturday, May 30, 2020.**

Due to meeting up requirements for reopening, we are currently working hard to be equipped with the following as we get ready to reopen:

- Hand sanitizer
- Disinfection whips
- Volunteers for cleaning the church every day
- Cleaners for church bathrooms
- Ushers who are not at risk
- Temperature Checks (We already ordered that).

Also, we want to help give you enough information on time so you can prepare for the reopening.

Please, we are currently asking for your volunteering help.

However, please note: according to guidelines from Government and Archdiocese;

**“volunteers MUST be over 18 years old and/or are NOT:**

**- in center for disease control (CDC) guidelines for people with high risk of COVID-19**

**- 65 years and older**

**- all who are immune compromised**

**- those who are exposed to another with COVID-19 virus within 14 days”**

**Note: these guidelines are also applicable to all parishioners who are at risk, irrespective of the role you play in the parish. Anyone attending Mass contrary to the above guidelines are doing so at their own risk.**

**Liturgy Information:** According to liturgical guideline from the Archdiocese, liturgical minister’s roles will be modified and “volunteers” will be limited to maximize the number of parishioners who will be able to attend Mass. We are currently working on that.

**Liturgical Ministers:** Liturgical ministers shall always wear masks at Mass, except the cantor with maintenance of social distancing required.

**Seating Arrangement:** the limited number of those attending Mass, including the ministers, are to sit only in the designated areas in the church.

**Face Masks:** Parishioners planning to attend Mass MUST wear face masks. Social distance must be maintained in the church.

**Maintaining Social Distancing:** Social distancing is what we call social physical distancing. We must stay 6 feet away from each other. We will not be able to allow any preferential treatment so as to allow opportunity for all parishioners to attend Mass.

**Holy Communion:** Please maintain 6 feet in the Holy Communion line. Communion will be offered on the tongue and hand with no glove. The Archdiocese recommends that for now the priest is the only one distributing the Holy Communion.

- Family unions should enter and exit the church in an organized manner and stay within 6 feet of others.
- Temporarily, music ministry may be limited, perhaps one cantor and one instrumentalist.
- Process of the gifts are suspended. The gift of bread and wine will be placed on a credence table near the altar in the sanctuary.
- We shall provide collection baskets, placed in special areas and monitored by ushers until the donations are collection and handled according to the proper protocols.
- There will be no song books in the church to prevent multiple people from touching the same book.
- There will be no shaking hands for the sign of peace.
- All ministers must sanitize their hands before and after ministry.
- When approaching to receive Holy Communion the communicant is to pull their mask below their chin to receive Communion, and then immediately replace their mask over their face after receiving the host.
- According to the Archdiocese, the communion to the homebound is suspended for now. Ministry will continue by other means as was instructed to all priests by the Archdiocese.

**Church Social gathering:** Any social gathering before and after Mass, including coffee and donuts, or any other group meetings, should not take place. The purpose of this reopening is to only provide access to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and Holy Communion. Live Stream Mass may continue for parishioners who are not able to attend Mass.

On the weekend of May 16<sup>th</sup>, we will give you further information about progress on our parish reopening coming up soon.

**Please Note:** the maximum number in a gather will remain 25, until new updates come from the governor and the Archdiocese. **When the Oregon Governor makes recommendations, the Archdiocese draws a decision from that.**

**Some Helps Needed, Please:**

Please, some volunteer help that are not at risk is needed. Please, call the parish office if you want to volunteer

**Sanitizer:** We also would need to have enough Hand Sanitizer and Disinfection Whips.

If you can, please donate hand sanitizer and disinfection whips. We are in need of both, especially hand sanitizer. If you have any you can spare, please bring your receipt and the church will reimburse you for the supplies. Thank you in advance! This will greatly help us to be able to reopen the church sooner. If we can get enough hand sanitizer, we will be able to open the church before or by the end of May.

**Summary Key Points for the Faithful from the Archbishop**

- *A general dispensation from the Sunday Mass obligation will remain in place. Mass attendance is not required.*
- *Those who attend Mass do so at their own risk. Vulnerable, at-risk and otherwise concerned persons should remain home.*
- *Anyone with slightest symptoms or feelings of sickness must remain home.*
- *Livestreaming of Masses will continue to be encouraged.*
- *Must Sign-up. Can't Show-up. The faithful must sign-up at only one parish. No one who simply shows-up for a Mass can be allowed entrance. NO Exceptions.*
- *The faithful are asked to be charitable and understanding if their pastor is unable to reopen Masses.*
- *Charity and understanding are counseled to the faithful if they are unable to attend Mass on the weekend (for those who want to go specifically on Sundays) due to space limitations.*

- *The pastor will determine how best to assign specific names to specific Mass times. Every sense of fairness must be maintained. Aside from those with special needs, any preferential treatment should be avoided.*
- *Have adequate stock of hand sanitizer and other cleaning supplies available.*
- *Social distancing policy should be posted on the church doors.*
- *Ensure liturgical ministers observe social distancing to the extent possible when performing their ministries.*
- **SEATING:** *Restrict seating to every alternate pew (or row of seats) to maintain distancing. Seating to be used should be clearly marked.*
- *Restroom use and cleaning policy must be developed by each parish (e.g. one at a time use only; cleaned and sanitized immediately following each Mass*
- *Parish cry-rooms may need to be closed or restricted to one family. If they are used, they will need to be carefully cleaned after use.*
- *Parish child-care during Masses should be discontinued until further notice.*
- **Signs could be placed on church doors to indicate the Mass schedule and provide a telephone number and email address for people wanting to put their names on a list to attend Mass.**
- *Social gatherings before or after Mass (including coffee & donuts) should not take place. Providing access to the celebration of Holy Mass and reception of Holy Communion during Mass is the purpose for reopening Masses.*
- *Pastors are encouraged to prepare a written or videotaped “welcome back” message that includes some details, including practical information, about the reopening transition.*

*All missalettes, pew cards, pencils and other loose items in the pews must be removed.*

*Individual bulletins cannot be distributed. Provide online or make necessary, brief announcements only.*

*Great care must be taken by ministers when distributing Holy Communion. Skin to skin contact should be carefully avoided. If contact is made, the priest or Extraordinary Minister should sanitize their hands before continuing distribution. As some who are present may perceive reception of Holy Communion on the tongue as a greater risk to safety, those who wish to receive on the tongue are kindly asked to wait until the end of the line to present themselves for Holy Communion.*

*Holy Communion is to be distributed by hand in the normal fashion. Ministers may not use gloves (or devices or instruments) to distribute Holy Communion.*

*Churches should designate one place of entrance when possible (at least one entrance should be accessible) in order to control the numbers of people coming in. Once the maximum is reached, no one else can be allowed entrance. Door monitor(s) will be needed. Only those on the list can enter. Maximum number allowed must never be exceeded. Maximum number includes the priest, ministers, livestream videographers and anyone else in the space during Mass.*

- Restroom use and cleaning policy must be developed by each parish (e.g. one at a time use only; cleaned and sanitized immediately following each Mass.*
- Parish cry-rooms may need to be closed or restricted to one family. If they are used, they will need to be carefully cleaned after use.*
- Parish child-care during Masses should be discontinued until further notice.*

Please my brothers and sisters in Christ, I want to thank you so much for your understanding and patience, as we all navigate through these processes of gradual reopening and coming back. I will continue to ask for your patience, prayers, and support, as we keep the pace of working out balance and effective logistics for reopening our churches. We thank the Archdiocese for the hard work of furnishing us with guidelines to help our own guidelines. May God bless, and be with you, and your family, always!

We shall keep you posted and see you soon!

Yours in Christ,

**Fr. Justus Alaeto**

Your Servant and Pastor