

To: Parishioners of Visitation Parish, Tacoma.  
From: Fr. Martin Bourke  
Subject: Preparation for Re-Opening for Public Masses  
May 25, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

**Please note that the Dispensation from the Sunday Mass Obligation remains in effect until further notice even though there may be partial opening for Mass.**

What follows are some adjustments that we will need to make, as we get ready to re-open for weekend and weekday Masses.

All of this is **tentative**, but probably will go into effect in Phase 3 of the process. There may still be some slight changes.

In Phase 3 beginning perhaps June 22<sup>nd</sup> or later because of the restriction to 50 people, we may need to look at pre-registration for attendance at Mass to ensure that we do not go over the limit. We may consider an extra Mass.

Apparently the State authorities will ask us to keep a **written log** of the names of those attending a Service for up to 30 days, to enable tracking, if after the fact, any person is found to be positive. Name, address, phone number and also maybe email address.

**One thing that would be helpful is if parishioners would make or get their own mask for use in the church.** A bandana or scarf folded on the diagonal and tied behind your head may fulfill the intent. In any scenario I believe that we will need to have those Masks.

Physical distancing will be in place except for members of the same direct family. So we may need to look at every second pew for use.

Sanitizing the church and restrooms will almost certainly be required between each Mass. Only one person at a time will be allowed into a restroom. The cry room can only be used for one person or direct family.

Early in the re-opening the decision to attend Mass belongs to the individual parishioner with any person feeling vulnerable or living with vulnerable people, encouraged to stay home. The burden of the decision to attend or not, is on the individual Parishioner, not on church authorities, because the Obligation is still dispensed from.

At the beginning of the re-opening there will be no congregational singing, the reason being that when a person sings, the little droplets that come from one's mouth tend to travel much further. For the present there will be no sign of peace.

No Eucharistic cup will be offered at communion time, only Eucharistic breads on the hand not on the tongue.

It is possible that communion may be delayed until Mass is over, when the Priest would remove his Chasuble and put on a Mask.

The money collection probably will take place before Mass as people enter or after as people exit the church. There will be no passing of a basket.

**As of now this is the best information I have. In addition, it would be helpful if a number of parishioners would make some extra Masks for us to hold at the door of the church as people enter, in the event that a person forgets to bring their own Mask.**

Thank you for the privilege of serving you,

*Fr. Martin Bourke.*