

Church of the
VISITATION
of the **BLESSED**
VIRGIN MARY



June 8, 2020

Dear Members of the Parish of Mary and Elizabeth, Visitation,

It is with great joy that I announce our intent to reopen for public Mass on June 21st 2020 for the two normal Sunday Masses at 8 am and 10 am, pending approval from the Archdiocese.

Allow me to say immediately that the Dispensation from the Sunday Mass obligation continues to be in place. It may be as much as 2 or 3 months before the Sunday Mass obligation is re-instated.

Furthermore, any person who is vulnerable, living with vulnerable people or simply fearful should continue to stay home for the moment.

In addition, if you have any of the following, a temperature over 100 degrees, shortness of breath, a hard cough, a headache, sore throat, chills, muscle pain or loss of taste and smell, you should stay home and perhaps get checked out.

While we will make every attempt to have a sanitary environment, there will always be some risk and each parishioner assumes that risk when coming to church.

We will have sanitizing stations in the church if needed. Restrooms are limited to one person at a time. The Restrooms will be sanitized between the Masses.

Because of the limit of 50 people per mass, you will need to reserve your seat by phone in advance.

Please call the cell number 360-328-3160 between the hours 11 am to 1 pm Monday through Friday. There is no answering service on this phone, you need to talk to a person to reserve your space.

As people arrive their reservation will be checked and a record kept of attendance for tracking purposes if ever needed later.

Those wishing to enter using the ramp on the West side of the church should first check in at the main entrance of the church to have their reservation checked.

In our seating arrangement we will have 6 feet separation with some pews roped off.

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People are asked to bring their own mask and wear it in church. For those who forget, we may have some extra masks available at the entry of the church.

There will be no congregational singing but perhaps some music from the Organ loft.

This is because a person projects their voice when singing and there would need to be greater separation between people. We do not have sufficient space for this.

Only three people will be allowed in the sanctuary area, the Priest, the Deacon and Sacristan. The reason for this is that the Priest will need 12 feet of separation because he is not wearing a mask during the Mass

Communion will not be distributed during Mass but after the Mass. There will be no cup. At the end of Mass, the Priest and Deacon will remove their Chasuble and Dalmatic respectively, then they will sanitize their hands, put on a mask and be ready to distribute communion. People are asked to approach the altar area in single file with 6 feet of separation. As they approach the Priest or Deacon, they should remove their mask and any gloves if used, respond to the term “the Body of Christ.” “Amen”

Communion is in the hand only, so please ensure that your hand is open flat and held steady. There will be no congregational singing but perhaps some music only from the Organ Loft. After each Mass the restrooms will be cleansed and the pews wiped down. For your convenience there will be sanitizing stations around the church.

Money donations will be received as you leave the church, please drop them in the basket provided at both entry points.

Bulletins may be available as you leave. Pick up your copy directly. They will not be handed out.

Our Archbishop has introduced a change in our posture during the Mass. This change is referred to in his pastoral letter on the Eucharist recently published in the Northwest Catholic magazine.

He has asked that we kneel after the Holy, Holy, Holy until the Great Amen just before the Our Father. We are to kneel again after the Lamb of God until it is time to go in procession to receive communion. He is seeking a uniform posture among parishioners during the Mass.

In advance, I thank you for your cooperation with Ushers and Volunteers.

Fr. Martin Bourke, Pastor.