

September 24, 2020

Dear OLMC Parishioners,

On September 22, 2020 – the California Department of Public Health announced that Solano County has been moved into the red tier (Tier 2) on the state’s COVID-19 response framework, allowing places of worship – *Our Lady of Mt. Carmel* – to resume indoor Mass celebrations, with modifications: **MAXIMUM CAPACITY IS 100 PEOPLE.**

“Ensuring the health of each person in our Church is a collective responsibility, we all need to make prudent and practical actions in coming back together, mindful of the role we play in preventing the further spread of COVID-19.”

~ Bishop Soto

Please read this ENTIRE document thoroughly to ensure complete understanding of the guidelines for attending Mass at OLMC.

**Effective Saturday, September 26, 2020
OLMC will resume public celebration of Masses – INDOOR!
Additionally, we are back to our “normal” schedule; however,
we have added an additional Mass, Sunday at 6PM!**

MASS SCHEDULE

- Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil, 5 pm
Sunday, 8 am, 10 am, 12 pm & 6 pm
Livestream Mass available, www.olmcfairfield.org
- Daily Mass: Monday – Saturday, 9 am
- Confessions: Saturdays, 3:00 – 4:00 pm or by appointment

CURRENT PROTOCOLS

These GUIDELINES are intended to ensure safety of ALL the faithful at the celebration of the Eucharist.

DECIDING TO ATTEND

- 1) The decree issued by Bishop Soto on March 13, 2020 dispensing ALL the faithful from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation remains in effect until further notice.

- 2) Those who fall in the vulnerable category, i.e. individuals age 65+ and persons with compromised health conditions, are asked to continue with the shelter-in-place ordinances instituted by state and local authorities.
- 3) If you are feeling sick or exhibiting symptoms associated with COVID-19, PLEASE STAY AT HOME. If you have been in contact with someone with COVID-19, PLEASE STAY AT HOME. If you are not feeling well, PLEASE STAY AT HOME.

FOR ALL OUR SAFETY

- 4) Mass attendance is limited to a **maximum of 100 people** (this includes Priest, Deacon, and all Ministers (Lectors, EMs, Ushers, Sacristan, etc.) who are serving Mass.
- 5) **“First-come, first-serve”** basis. ONLY the first 100 people will be allowed inside the Church. **NO RESERVATIONS REQUIRED.** If you are the 101 person, *please don't take this personally . . . you are welcome to enjoy a personal conversation with Jesus as you meditate at the outside Stations of the Cross.*
- 6) OLMC Staff is mandated to facilitate contact tracing in cases where there is an instance of an infection; therefore, we will continue to take each person's name and contact information at the door.
- 7) **Every person entering the Church MUST wear a mask. No mask . . . NO MASS.** *Scientifically proven, wearing a mask slows down the risk of infection. Therefore, wearing a mask helps to safeguard each other AND it **makes everyone around you feel at ease. PLEASE WEAR A MASK!***
- 8) Every person who enters the Church are **encouraged to wear gloves.** Be reminded to refrain from unnecessary touching of surfaces.
- 9) Sufficient means to disinfect or sanitize will be available, however, we **encourage** you to bring your own personal hand sanitizers so that you are able to sanitize yourself as often as necessary, before, during and after the Mass.
- 10) **Physical distancing is to be observed** during the celebration of Mass **by every person** present. Individuals living in the same household may remain close to one another but must observe social distancing with other individuals or other households.
- 11) The Family Room capacity is limited up to four (4) families, ONLY. Children should remain in the care of those in their household unit and NOT interact with children of other parties during Mass.
- 12) Please instruct your children to use the restroom before leaving home, and limit their leaving your pew during Mass.
- 13) ANYONE who tests positive for the COVID-19 virus . . . and . . . has come into contact within any area(s) in the OLMC Campus - Church, Dome, Parking Lot, Courtyard, etc.

– you **MUST** inform the Parish Office **IMMEDIATELY**. OLMC Staff is mandated to facilitate contact tracing in cases where there is an instance of an infection.

UPON ARRIVAL

- 14) To enter / exit please use the Main Gate located on Cement Hill Street. The other two gates will remain closed at this time.
- 15) Parishioners will be **screened for temperature**. Person(s) with a temperature above 100.4F will not be permitted inside the Church. Also, if you are experiencing other symptoms such as cough or sore throat, recent loss of smell or taste, chills, new muscle aches, upset stomach - PLEASE seek medical attention, *immediately*.

ONCE INSIDE THE CHURCH

- 16) An OLMC Usher will direct you to a pew that will allow social-distancing. **Smile and thank the OLMC Usher for being there!**
- 17) Ushers will seat parishioners in the MIDDLE pews, from front to rear – allowing max capacity for social distancing. The LEFT and RIGHT side pews will NOT be occupied at this time; thus, minimizing surface areas to sanitize between Masses. **Please be cooperative** with your OLMC Usher as he / she cheerfully seats you in a pew that may not be your normal sitting area.
- 18) To allow mandatory six feet spacing between individuals / or household groups, only every other pew may be occupied. Please adhere to the seat markers, allowing social distancing. Please DO NOT remove the seat markers that are placed in the pews.

TEMPORARY MASS CHANGES

- 19) *Holy Water Fonts will be kept empty until further notice*. However, for a donation, we have ample supply of Blessed Holy Water Bottles available by request. Please see Sacristan(s).
- 20) The Presider, Deacon and Altar Servers are to recess to the most direct route to the Sacristy.
- 21) Communion from the cup has been suspended. It is HIGHLY recommended to receive the Body of Christ on the hand; however, those communicant(s) who wish to receive communion on the tongue may do so at the END of the communion line. Please WAIT until the “communion on hand” finishes, THEN, come up for reception of communion on the tongue.
- 22) In order to social distance from each other, there will only be **ONE communion line**. **Communion line will start from the back pews**. Please remain seated until an Usher directs your pew to receive Holy Communion.

- 23) **Parishioners are to remove masks and gloves before approaching the minister.**
- 24) ***Parishioners are to remain in their seats until instructed by an OLMC Usher*** to exit their pews. At the end of each Mass, the Ushers will assist parishioners to exit from the back pews. Please maintain social distancing as you walk out the exit routes. Maintain six feet social distance as you leave church to avoid congestion at the doors.
- 25) ***Socializing*** and fellowship after Mass ***should be avoided at this time.***

“We are called to greater patience, charity and understanding during the transition.”
~ Bishop Soto

ATTENDANCE AT DAILY MASS

All protocols for weekend Masses will apply for Daily Masses. When we reach maximum capacity of 100 people we will simply end admissions; and the doors will close. If you are the 101 person, *please don't take this personally . . .* you are welcome to enjoy a personal conversation with Jesus as you meditate at the outside Stations of the Cross.

OTHER THINGS TO KNOW

- 1) The Church will be **closed** outside of scheduled services. Socializing and meetings in the Church or Dome are not allowed at this time. *Please continue to be patient.*
- 2) The Church will be cleaned and sanitized thoroughly after each Mass. Everyone must leave immediately after each Mass.
- 3) Parish Office Hours:
 In-person – Monday through Friday 10AM – 12 Noon.
 By phone – Monday through Friday 10AM – 12 Noon.
- 4) If you have any question(s) or need assistance you can also email the Parish Office at olmc.gem@gmail.com.

ⁱGuidelines for the Resumption of Public Masses in the Diocese of Sacramento, Revised May 26, 2020

ⁱⁱCDPH / COVID-19 Industry Guidance: Places of Worship and Providers of Religious Services and Cultural Ceremonies, May 25, 2020

ⁱⁱⁱSolanoCounty.gov, Sept. 22, 2020