

Dear Parishioners and Friends of Our Lady of Guadalupe,

Gov. Inslee has announced that churches may resume public worship but with limited restrictions. We are eager to return to celebrating mass together in the church once King County reaches Phase II of the "Safe Start" reopening plan. However, we must be able to ensure the safest environment for the people gathering in an enclosed space. The wellbeing of our community is a priority.

As we discuss and plan for the limited public celebration of mass, we think it is important to get a sense of our parishioners' readiness to return to mass while the pandemic continues. The dispensation from Sunday Mass will continue, so you are not required to attend public mass at this time. Thus, while it is possible for the faithful to begin to return to Mass soon, we will continue to livestream Masses.

At the end of this letter you will find a link to a short survey before you respond we want you to be fully aware of what conditions and requirements will be in place. While these procedures and protocols are subject to change, they are based on the current guidance from the Archdiocese. For those who wish to attend public mass please know it will not be like anything you have experienced before. Reopening will not mean an immediate return to our practices prior to suspension of public Masses. Currently we plan to only offer a public mass on Saturday at 5:30 pm and continue livestreaming on Sunday at 10am.

What we will be asking of parishioners:

- We will do everything possible to ensure the safety of those who attend. However, **anyone attending Mass does so at their own risk**. Vulnerable, at-risk and otherwise concerned persons should remain home. This includes persons over the age of 65 and anyone who has a chronic disease, persons with diabetes, and persons with a weakened immune system.
- You will be required to take your temperature at home and if it is more than 100.4 you agree that will not attend mass. Anyone experiencing even the slightest symptoms, such as fever, cough, sore throat, muscle aches, **MUST** remain at home out of consideration for the health and wellbeing of others.
- Masks/face coverings must be worn. We ask that you bring your own, but we will have some available if necessary. For your safety and that of others, face masks are not optional.
- Upon entrance to the church each person will be required to sanitize their hands and practice strict physical distancing of 6 feet apart from members of different households.
- Limited Number – only 40 individuals will be able to attend mass.

- Registration will be required to attend the Mass – an online registration system will be used. We will not admit anyone who is not registered. Registration is mandated to both limit the numbers in attendance and to provide for contact tracing should we learn that anyone present has been exposed to Covid-19. We are required to keep records of all in attendance for 30 days, after which they will be destroyed.
- Arrive 15 minutes prior to the start of mass to allow time for the check in process.
- Registered persons will be greeted by staff who will check you in and show you your place for Mass. You will not be able to choose your own spot. However, family groups will remain together. At check in you will be asked to confirm the above has been met.

Changes within the Mass:

- There will be no congregational singing because singing increases the risk of transmitting of the virus.
- The Sign of Peace will not be shared, and Communion will not be offered from the cup.
- Communion will be distributed after the final blessing. Because we are not able to gather or socialize following Mass, you will need to leave the church following receiving communion.
- At Communion parishioners will come forward wearing their masks and observing physical distancing as directed by the usher. Communion will be given *only* in the hand, not on the tongue. You will step to the side to consume the host. Parishioners may not wear gloves to receive Holy Communion.
- No holy water in the font.
- Restrooms will not be available for use, except in an emergency. (*Mass will be shorter to limit the amount of time people are in an enclosed space*)

These safety measures are employed, not out of fear, but out of love for neighbor and concern for the vulnerable. Thank you in advance for taking the time to complete the short survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/C2GQG5H> We ask that you provide your response by Friday, June 12.

We thank you for your continued patience and support,

Fr. Kevin Duggan