

Procedures for the return to Public Mass at OLL

All requirements are in accord with the Diocese of Charleston directives.

1. As we return to the public celebration of the Holy Mass I want to welcome you all back to the sacraments. That said, I must make it clear that we cannot guarantee your safety but are taking all prudent actions to reduce the risks. If you are at high risk please be prudent in your own choices. There is no obligation to attend Public Mass during the Covid-19 crisis. We will continue to Live-Stream the 9AM Sunday Mass for now.
2. Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church will return to the PUBLIC celebration of Mass on 12 May. The Mass schedule is as follows: **Daily Mass—Tuesday through Saturday at 12 NOON. Sunday Mass—Saturday Vigil at 5PM and Sunday at 9AM.** These Mass times will allow for the church to be cleaned after each Mass.
3. The Bishop has left in place the dispensation from attending Sunday Mass. Therefore:
 - a. There is NO Sunday Mass obligation until further notice in the Diocese of Charleston.
 - b. Further, there is NO obligation for the faithful to receive Holy Communion on a Sunday. In fact, Holy Communion should ONLY be received when one is in a State of Grace. If you are aware of a MORTAL SIN that has NOT been Confessed to a Priest **you must not receive Holy Communion**. Normally you DO still have an obligation to attend Sunday Mass, even if you are conscious of having committed a MORTAL SIN; although this obligation is currently under suspension by order of the Bishop.
 - c. In the interest of enabling the faithful to return to the Sacrament of the Eucharist and receive Holy Communion the Bishop has granted permission for GENERAL ABSOLUTION to be celebrated before the Mass for those in attendance until June 1st. Therefore, before each Public Mass there will be a brief celebration of General Absolution. General Absolution will NOT apply to those who are watching via live-stream video.
 - d. General Absolution is received with the intent to return to regular celebration of the Sacrament of Penance as soon as possible. Regular celebration of the Sacrament of Penance will begin again in June. If you are conscious of a MORTAL SIN on your soul please call Fr. Dennis to make an appointment to go to Confession as soon as possible in June.
 - e. As there is a continuing dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass, NOT attending Sunday Mass since March 8th is NOT A MORTAL SIN. There is no need to confess it.
4. All the faithful who wish to attend a Public Mass—Daily or Sunday—must sign up using *SignUp Genius*. Only 125 slots are available for each Mass—Daily or Sunday. One family member may sign up for multiple family members and guests who are attending. The link for *SignUp Genius* will be published in the near future on our parish website, Facebook page and through the Weekend Reminder.
5. **LITURGICAL MINISTERS!!!** There will be **ONLY ONE** *SignUp Genius* link to sign up to attend Mass and for **ALL LITURGICAL MINISTRIES** (Greeters, Ushers, Altar Servers, Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.) The liturgical ministries are additional slots! You do not need to sign up twice if you are attending as a liturgical minister.

6. **CHOIR MEMBERS!** While we know our choir and musicians would love to sing and play for us, at this time music will be provided only by a keyboardist/ organist with a cantor. Please sign up to attend Mass using one of the regular sign up slots. Please do not plan on sitting in the choir.
7. Sign ups are on a First Come basis. Please be considerate of others. If you were able to attend a Sunday Mass one weekend, allow others to sign up for the following weekend before trying to sign up again.
8. Cut off for sign up will be at 1:00AM the day of the Mass. This will allow the parish to print off attendance sheets to be checked as you enter the church for Mass.
9. Greeters will have the attendance sheet on clip boards. Only the central doors of the church will be open. Please give your name to a greeter to have your name checked off. If you signed up as a family please give your family name and how many are attending.
10. Greeters will also have bottles of sanitizer for your use. They will gladly administer a dollop to any who ask. You are also welcome to bring personal/family bottles of sanitizer with you to Mass.
11. Five minutes before Mass VISITORS from out of town will be allowed to fill any slots that have not been checked off. Therefore, if you have signed up for Mass you must be in the church FIVE minutes before Mass. If you are late, you risk losing your place.
12. Once Mass begins the front doors to the church will be locked. You will not be allowed to enter as no one will be watching the doors to the Church to let in those who are late. All the exit doors have panic bars and can be unlocked from the inside when departing.
13. Individual Worship Aids will be provided. They will not be handed out but will be available on the Offertory Table in the Narthex. You must take one if you want to participate fully in the Mass. **Please do not leave these in the church. We ask that you take them home with you. They can only be used once!** No hymnals will be available.
14. Ushers will seat you. This will enable us to control seating in the church. You will be seated beginning in the front pews and fill every other pew and maintaining a six-foot distance between parishioners/families. Please be understanding of this requirement. You will not be able to sit in your "regular spot". **The Cry/Family Room and Choir Loft are closed during this time.**
15. We will begin Mass simply with a joyful smile extended to those around us in welcome.
16. No gifts will be brought up in procession. No collection will be taken during Mass.
17. There will be no sign of peace during Mass.
18. Holy Communion is **strongly encouraged to be received in the hand**. If you insist on receiving on the tongue the following must be done:
 - a. The Communicant **MUST** stick out their tongue fully and open their mouth fully. If this is not done to the minister's satisfaction he/she will verbally request that you do so.
 - b. The Ordinary Minister (Priest or Deacon) or the Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion will then leave the Communion line and an Altar Server will bring them sanitizer to sanitize their hands before returning to the distribution of Holy Communion. Those in line must wait for this to be done. They should not join another line.

19. The Ordinary Minister (Priest or Deacon) or the Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion is encouraged to wear a Mask during the distribution of Holy Communion. It is not recommended that they wear gloves but they should take every precaution to avoid skin to skin contact with another person.
20. Please do not snatch from, grab, or close your hands on the Minister's hand while receiving Holy Communion!
21. Lines for Holy Communion must maintain the six-foot rule for social distancing. Families who are sheltering together are excluded from this requirement.
22. At the end of Mass, please do not leave. We will depart in an orderly fashion from the back of the church first and until the front pews are emptied. Ushers will direct this movement. And please, DO NOT LEAVE immediately after receiving Holy Communion!
23. Please do not congregate or converse with others inside the church when leaving Mass. If you choose to remain and greet friends or family please do so outside. Please be certain to stand **far away** from the doors to the church and maintain social distancing.
24. Masks may be worn by anyone who desires to wear one. The Church will not be providing masks. At this time masks are not required but are strongly recommended.
25. Gloves may be worn. The Church will not be providing gloves. At this time gloves are not required.
26. A collection basket will be on the offertory table before and after Mass. Please use this basket to donate to the parish. Thank you for your support.
27. Bulletins will be available for you to take **AFTER** Mass. They will not be handed out but will be available on the Offertory Table in the Narthex. You must take one if you want one.
- 28. PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE ANYTHING IN THE CHURCH THAT YOU HAVE TOUCHED—WORSHIP AID, BULLETINS, ETC.** The church must be cleaned after each Mass and if you leave anything it will make this task more difficult.
29. After each Mass we are asking for volunteers to remain and clean all the pews and surfaces (doors and tables) that are likely to have been touched. Bathrooms will be cleaned by a contractor. Many thanks to our Volunteers. We think 5 to 10 volunteers should be enough to clean the church in a timely but thorough manner. Cleaning supplies will be provided. You can sign up as a volunteer on the same *SignUp Genius* link used to sign up to attend Mass.