

Saint Philomena Catholic Church

July 8, 2020

My dear friends:

After several months of quarantine, we are now at the point where we may dip our toes back into the pond of public worship. It is a tentative move at this point, for rates of contagion in Washington State are not going down, and a recent article in the New York Times indicates that houses of worship are perfect sites for transmission of the virus.

However, the State of Washington and the Archdiocese of Seattle have worked out protocols and procedures for public worship that appear to diminish the possibility of infection, if meticulously observed. You will find these attached to this letter.

The weekend schedule will be as follows:

Saturdays 5:30 pm English
Sunday 6:30 am Spanish
8:30 am English
10:30 am English
1:00 pm Spanish
5:30 pm English

This schedule will begin on Saturday, July 18. In order to attend Sunday Masses, you must make a reservation by calling the rectory office, during ordinary office hours. We must have your reservation by 3pm Friday before the Sunday desired. We do this in order to facilitate 'contact tracing'. In order to facilitate as many people as possible to attend Sunday Mass, we ask people to sign up only once every three Sundays. Those who simply 'show-up' for Mass, unfortunately will not be admitted.

Weekday masses will resume on Monday, July 13 at 7:30 am. No reservations are necessary for weekday masses, but there will be a sign-up sheet for those attending. At this time there will be no Mass on Saturday mornings.

These restrictions may appear to be excessive and even onerous, but they are in place in order to make sure that coming to Church is safe. However, they will not be permanent.

I would ask for your patience and cooperation in this process. As I wrote at the beginning of the pandemic, our response will necessarily be imperfect, but “we’ll do the best we know”, in the words of Bernstein’s Candide.

Baptisms, confessions and Anointing of the Sick will continue to be available by appointment.

Praying for your good health, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ

Father Steve

