

Never Isolated in Christ

YOUR WEEKLY VIEW BEHIND THE MASK OF ASSUMPTION PARISH

JUNE 04, 2020

*For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel:
By waiting and by calm you shall be saved,
in quiet and in trust shall be your strength.*

*Truly, the LORD is waiting to be gracious to you,
truly, he shall rise to show you mercy;
For the LORD is a God of justice:
happy are all who wait for him!*

-Isaiah 30:15, 18

Pastor's Note

Dear Assumption Parishioners,

We have returned to the public celebration of Mass! Praise God!

Though it caught us completely by surprise, we were delighted last week when Governor Inslee announced that Phase 1 counties could hold outdoor religious services with up to 100 people, while Phase 2 counties could hold indoor religious services with up to 50 people. Much credit needs to be given to our Washington State bishops for all of their behind-the-scenes activism, alternately collaborating with, and then keeping the pressure on, the governor's office. Had it not been for our bishops, religious services would not have been given these additional accommodations in the early phases and we might still be stuck with unhelpful drive-in services.

Much credit also goes to our parish staff for the fact that we have been able to hold a public Mass already. Assumption was only one of a handful of parishes in the entire archdiocese offering Masses last weekend, and that is because our staff were so motivated, connected, and on top of things that we managed to submit a full plan of action to the archdiocese by Thursday evening. And we have only been able to retain such a competent parish staff because you, our parishioners, continue to support your parish generously, even amid economic uncertainties.

This is, unfortunately, a longer letter than usual. The complexities of beginning to open the parish again require a lot of space, and some important announcements have come up that we felt could not wait. Thank you for wading through the entire thing!

May the Lord, who has never abandoned his people, continue to guide each of us in this crazy time!

J. Moore

How to Attend Mass

Capacity is limited, so **everyone who attends Mass must first register**. That registration will look different this weekend than it will in future weekends.

Weekend of June 06/07

For the weekend of June 06/07, we will continue to hold Mass outdoors and we will continue to use the Sign-Up Genius system that we used last weekend.

Unfortunately, this is a first-come, first-served system, **so if you were able to attend Mass last weekend, would you consider waiting until Friday afternoon to sign up again?** That will allow people who were not able to attend last weekend to maybe attend this weekend.

[You can sign up for Masses here.](#)

Future Weekends

For future weekends, we will be assigning people to Masses. With our limited capacity, it is possible that each family will only be able to attend Sunday Mass *every other or every third weekend*. Those who are not able to attend a Sunday Mass in a given weekend will be given priority for the daily Masses that week (once daily Masses begin again).

So how does this system work?

1. [Take this survey to tell us that you are ready to attend Sunday Masses.](#) Please fill this out even if you are planning to serve as a liturgical minister. We need to know *everyone* who is ready to return to Sunday Mass.
2. Wait for an e-mail each week (likely sent Wednesday or Thursday) with a list of who can attend which Masses that weekend.

Two important notes:

1. **You only need to sign up once!** Once you are in our system, you will automatically be assigned to Masses going forward. Please also sign up as a family, not as individuals.
2. **If you are not yet ready to attend Sunday Mass** (especially an indoor Mass), **do not sign up yet!** The link will be on our website and you can fill out the survey when you are ready.

Important Questions

“What if I am not yet comfortable coming to Mass?”

That is totally okay! We are all still dispensed from our Sunday obligation, and as long as that dispensation continues, no one should feel guilty for not coming to Mass in person. We are all going to reengage with society, including the Church, at our own pace *and that is okay*.

“Will you still be streaming Mass?”

Yes. We will stream the Sunday Mass for as long as the Archbishop dispenses us from our Sunday obligation. We want people to pray along with the Sunday Mass, even if they are not required to be there in person. Once the dispensation is lifted, we will stop streaming Sunday Mass. We will stop streaming daily Mass sometime before that, but we have no idea when that might be.

“Is Fr. Moore still doing communion visits?”

Yes, Fr. Moore will continue to do communion visits (in neighborhoods and on campus) for as long as there is a significant population of people who are not yet comfortable returning to Sunday Mass. However, **it is always better to receive communion as part of Mass than to receive it outside of Mass**, so Fr. Moore is asking those who are able to attend Sunday Mass to no longer receive communion outside of Mass.

“Can my friend bring me a host?”

No. Except for very rare, case-by-case circumstances, Fr. Moore is the only one distributing communion during Phase 1 and Phase 2. This is because the Archdiocese is very strict about the sterilization and hygiene requirements for distributing communion at the moment and Fr. Moore is ultimately responsible if someone gets sick because of the distribution of communion associated with the parish.

Technology Ambassadors

We know that we have many parishioners who struggle with technology or do not have access to e-mail. Some of these folks would very much like to attend Mass or receive communion, but we do not have the capacity in the office to call each of these parishioners every time new Mass assignments are out.

However, if each of our more technologically savvy parishioners adopted one phone-only parishioner, the work of making sure that all of our parishioners are taken care of gets spread out and suddenly becomes manageable.

Do you know someone who struggles with technology? Would you consider becoming their “Technology Ambassador”? That would involve (1) calling that person, (2) filling them in on our parish happenings, (3) signing that person up to attend Mass or receive communion, and (4) call them to inform them each time they receive a Mass assignment or a communion visit.

Are you already doing this for multiple people? Consider sending [Dr. Kathy Ernst](#) some of those names so that she can assign them to a different Technology Ambassador.

Don’t know anyone who needs help? Consider volunteering yourself to [Dr. Kathy Ernst](#) to be a Technology Ambassador.

Helpful Links

In case you missed them:

- [Fr. Moore’s letter about how to receive communion outside of Mass \(Español\)](#)
- [Fr. Moore’s FAQ about outdoor Mass](#)
 - (Please note the sign-up link in that letter will be wrong. Please use the sign-up link in this letter.)

Timeline for Parish Re-Opening

Below is a tentative timeline for the re-opening of various parish activities and programs. This timeline is very much subject to change.

- **Weekend of June 06/07:** Outdoor Masses
- **Weekend of June 13/14:** Indoor Masses
 - *Likely.* There may be reasons to continue Outdoor Masses. We are still discussing this as a staff.
- **Week of June 28 – July 02:** Daily Masses and adoration resume, gatherings of five or fewer people allowed

Other Parish News

Fake E-mail

Please note that “frjeffreymoore@gmail.com” does not belong to Fr. Moore. He will never, ever e-mail you from a personal account. He will only ever use “frmoore@assumption.org”.

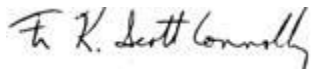
Fr. Scott's 25th Anniversary

A note from Fr. Scott:

Next week I will be celebrating my 25th anniversary to the priesthood. I can't believe how quickly it has flown by. I had intended a few different celebrations to share the moment (one at Assumption in Bellingham, one down here in Seattle with my new parishes, and one for family and close friends). However, with the current situation, all those plans have been put on hold. I will be celebrating a mass of Thanksgiving on the actual anniversary date and invite you to come virtually to the celebration. Mass will be live streamed Wednesday, June 10th at 6 pm and there will be a virtual dinner at your house afterward! As an important part of my journey I invite you to participate if you are able. You can come on Facebook at this address: <https://www.facebook.com/SouthSeattleCatholicChurches/>. If you don't have Facebook you can stream it live on the St. Paul Parish website. Here's the connection to that: <https://www.stpaulparish.com/>.

One day, when we're able to get together in person, I'd love to have another celebration where we can actually attend mass, have a reception or dinner and reconnect. Until then, remember that I hold you in prayer and ask for your prayers for me.

Yours in Christ,



Parish Financial Update

Again, thanks to the extreme generosity of our parishioners, we have not been severely affected by the COVID-19 shutdown. However, we are beginning to fall behind on year-over-year giving. We are currently **\$9,304 behind** last year's giving level.

Things are starting off well with the Annual Catholic Appeal. We have **\$56,454 pledged out of the \$91,345** required by the Archdiocese. These pledges have come from **187 families**. If you have not yet made a pledge, please do so! Remember, you can pay in monthly installments if the current situation has you worried about cash flow. [You can pledge here.](#)