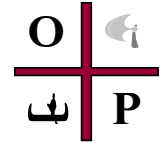


St. Olaf Catholic Parish
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July 1, 2021

Hello Everyone,

I write today to share a more comprehensive update on our plans for Mass and parish life as we head into the remainder of Summer and then into Fall.

To begin, please know that the dispensation from Archdiocese of Seattle regarding the Sunday obligation remains in place. No one is obligated to go to church right now.

In addition, please remember that the danger of the covid-19 virus and its variants remains in our community, state, nation, and global community. Our responsibility to love God and to love our neighbor as ourselves requires that we ensure safety, protect the vulnerable, and support the common good. We are also invited to sensitivity of the reality that many people are unvaccinated, may not be able to receive the vaccine for various reasons, or might suffer from compromised immune systems. All this leads us into renewed awareness that the pandemic is not over, even though we have experienced the great blessing of substantial progress in combatting it here locally.

Finally, in the event of an exposure, we will continue to follow the procedures as directed by the Kitsap County Health Department and the Archdiocese of Seattle. These include gathering information related to the date and time of the exposure and any people with whom the person might have had contact; cleaning and sanitation procedures; and community wide communications regarding health department requirements.

So, with these preliminary thoughts in mind, I offer the following updates;

Registrations are no longer required, and no records will be kept of who was present.

Regarding seating in the church . . . the part of the main body of the church between the front doors and the altar is open for full occupancy. The side wing and the social hall remain devoted to those who wish to maintain physical distancing, as the tape markings and designated chair arrangements indicate.

Before coming to church, please self-screen, according to the CDC guidelines. Upon arriving to the church entrance, please let a hospitality minister know of your preference for physical distancing or not. Those with a preference for physical distancing will be directed to the north-side wing and/or social hall. Those without this preference will be welcome to choose a seat in the pews in front of the altar.

Facial coverings and/or masks . . . The CDC recommends masks for people who are not vaccinated. While masks are optional, we do encourage them to create a safe environment for many of our brothers and sisters who are not yet vaccinated.

Numerous liturgical changes were implemented during the pandemic, and some of these will remain for the time being. These include: no congregational singing, no distribution of the Precious Blood, no exchange of peace, no bringing forward of the gifts, and no holy water in the communal door fonts.

During the pandemic we stopped passing the financial donation baskets, and installed a beautifully crafted and secure “tithe drop-off box” near the main doors of the church. After due consideration, we are choosing to maintain the use of the tithe box rather than restart the use of passing the baskets. As such, please place any financial donations through the slot on the top of the tithe box as you enter or exit the church.

We will not be having coffee & donuts, receptions, or common meals at this time, until further notice.

The weekend Mass schedule remains as:

	Saturday 4:30pm
(all at St. Olaf Church in Poulsbo)	Saturday 6:30pm (en Español)
	Sunday 10:30am

Before and after Mass, while in the parking lot, please refrain from “close contact”. Close Contact is 15 minutes of unmasked interaction within six-foot distance between non-household members.

Many have asked about starting other parts of parish life. Please consider October 2021 as our time to begin. Planning for this will take place in September 2021, after Summer vacation. This includes consideration for St. Peter Mission.

With many blessings of peace, love, and joy to you and your families 😊

Fr. David

Please remember to follow all of our guidelines for the protection and promotion of the common good. Also, please follow any directions given by our hospitality ministers.