



Guardian Angels Parish

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Pastor: Rev. John Alex Pinto, OCD

May 19, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

“With great joy and thanksgiving, I am pleased to announce to you that here in the Archdiocese of Vancouver we will now resume limited public Masses.”

Following are the extracts of guidelines given by the Archdiocese of Vancouver which I have adapted after consulting with the Parish Pastoral Council.

The COVID-19 pandemic still presents a serious threat to physical health. Our provincial authorities, therefore, continue to discourage unnecessary activities outside the home; to call for physical distancing, frequent hand washing and appropriate use of masks; and to limit all public gatherings to no more than 50. At the same time, for us Catholics access to the Eucharist and the Church’s full sacramental life is of the utmost importance to our spiritual well-being. For this reason, we are preparing to reopen our churches, in a limited way, for celebration of the Sacred Liturgy.

In preparation for the initial re-opening of public Masses, we need to follow certain directives and guidelines as set out by provincial authorities and the office of the Archbishop. Herewith are some of the guidelines that **are to be observed**:

- 1) *Always observe* the directives of the provincial health authority, especially regarding *physical distancing* (except for the same members of household) *and sanitizing*.
- 2) **All the faithful in the Archdiocese of Vancouver remain dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass during this initial reopening phase. Furthermore, they are not required to attend a weekday Mass in place of the Sunday Liturgy.**
- 3) **Anyone attending Mass does so at *their own risk*.**
 - a. **The following must stay home for the sake of the wider community:**
 - i. People with COVID-19 or who live with someone with COVID-19.
 - ii. People who have been exposed to someone with COVID-19.
 - iii. Those who have recently travelled outside of Canada.
 - b. **The following are encouraged to stay home for the sake of the wider community:**
 - i. The sick, including those with even the slightest symptoms or feelings of sickness, especially if with upper respiratory or flu-like symptoms.
 - ii. People who live with someone with upper respiratory or flu-like symptoms.

iii. People, especially the elderly, with underlying or comprised medical conditions.

iv. Family members who live with elderly people or those who are at risk

4) **Resuming public Masses should take place in *strict accord* with all the health directives promulgated by the Province's health authorities regarding the number of people allowed at a gathering.**

The *maximum number of 50* currently allowed includes the priest, liturgical ministers, musicians, livestream videographers and anyone else present during Mass.

5) Restrict seating to every second or third pew (or row of seats) to maintain physical distancing.

6) **Restrooms will be closed but one may be made available for an emergency.**

After consultation with Parish Pastoral Council, our parish, Guardian Angels, will be re-opening public Masses as suggested by Archbishop Miller, which is at the earliest on the weekend of May 23/24. Following will be our Mass Schedule:

Monday to Friday: 8am

Saturday: 4pm & 6pm

Sunday: 9am; 11am (with live streaming) and 12:30pm

Please call the parish office at 604-684-5775 or send an email to parish.ga@rcav.org to register for your preferred Mass schedule. If the scheduled 5 weekend masses accommodate all registrants, these groupings will be followed every week. Otherwise, each group will alternately take turns. Please do not bring any members of the family with you except those who signed up. Those intending to attend weekday Masses must PRE-register too.

Assigned hospitality ministers will be present at all Masses who will record attendance. Attendees maybe asked to give more information. This information will be kept for contact tracing. Your hands will also be sanitized upon arrival or you can sanitize your hands with your own supplies in the presence of the volunteer. **Please arrive at least 10 to 15 minutes before the mass. Please note: The church will be closed once service begins.**

Please inform other parishioners about this new updates and to register for Mass they wish to attend.

Looking forward to seeing you all again.

Prayers and blessings,

Fr. John Alex Pinto OCD

Pastor