May 18, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

As I write this letter, I pray that you and your families are in good health. The purpose of this letter is to update you on the Archbishop’s directives for the 1st Phase of lifting of the suspension of attending Mass.

The following is a summary of those directives and general information that apply to you and your family. These guidelines are for the safety of lives and health of everyone and that continued celebration of the Mass depends on everyone’s cooperation. The Mass will be modified and we ask for your patience and understanding. It will be different than what you are used to and may change over time. The overall goal is to celebrate Mass. You may not be able to sit in your usual spot, so again we ask for your cooperation.

* First and foremost, please remember that **dispensation from Sunday obligation remains for all.**
* Persons over 60, those with compromised immune systems or those who are sick are encouraged to remain home.
* Attendance is limited to 25% of building capacity; that means that only 100 people may attend Mass at one time.
* Face masks will be required for any one that is age 3 and older. Parents are highly recommended NOT to bring children less than 3 years old to Mass. **Persons without masks will be turned away.**
* **Prepare children** 3 and older of the requirements to wear a mask and have social distancing explained to them. Small children need to be with an adult at all times, including in the restroom. They will not be allowed to wander or visit with neighboring persons/families.
* Mass attendance is on a first come basis and everyone is encouraged to arrive early. The front door is the only entrance open. Once we have met capacity, the doors will be locked.
* We ask that everyone minimize touching of doors, pews etc.
* There will be NO congregational singing as to minimize the spread of breath droplets.
* The shortest liturgical forms will be used and homilies will be brief. The goal is 30-40 minutes for the Mass to minimize exposure/contamination.
* No handshakes or contact or any kind between families. This includes n**o hand holding during the Our Father**. During the sign of peace, you may acknowledge those around you with a slight nod.
* Communion will be distributed after the final blessing takes place. Communicants must be masked, receive the host in their hand, step aside prior to lifting mask for consuming and the exit the building immediately.
* Ushers will seat everyone before Mass and will direct the communion lines at the end of Mass.
* No after Mass assemblies will be allowed. Please depart immediately after Mass.
* A **collection box** will be located in the church for all donations. Please deposit your envelopes or cash into the collection box. You may also mail your contributions to 1860 Griegos Road NW, Albuquerque NM 87107, you may drop them into the black mailbox outside the Parish Hall or give online at [www.guadalupeabq.com](http://www.guadalupeabq.com).
* Everyone is encouraged to bring their own hand sanitizer.
* Only one restroom will be available to minimize exposure/contamination.

The **Mass schedule** is as follows: Daily Masses Monday through Friday at 10:00am, evening Masses on Monday and Friday at 6:00pm, Saturday Mass at 5:30pm, and Sunday Masses at 10:00am, 12:30pm and 6:30pm. Confessions are from 3:30 to 4;30 on Saturdays and by appointment. To allow everyone an opportunity to attend Mass, we encourage you to attend one of these Masses on any day of the week and we remind you that **dispensation from Sunday obligation remains for all.**

Future updates and more information will be posted via Instagram, Facebook or on our website at [www.guadalupeabq.com](http://www.guadalupeabq.com). If you are not sure how this works, ask a family member for help. I’m sure that they will be very willing to assist you.

In order to stay open through this first phase of return, we will need your help. If you would like to volunteer as a greeter, usher or to help us clean the church before and after all Masses, please contact the Parish Office at 345-4596.

I continue to pray for you and your families.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Joe Vigil, Pastor