



MARY, QUEEN OF PEACE

CATHOLIC CHURCH • SAMMAMISH, WA

30 June 2021

First Holy Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church

Dear Friends,

Today Washington State “re-opened” and removed most of its COVID-19 restrictions. Local Public Health described it in these words:

“...most businesses and organizations may choose to operate as they did before the COVID-19 pandemic with no capacity limits or physical distancing requirements. However, COVID-19 is still present in our communities. Any organization or business may choose to maintain [some or all of the existing protocols]...”

Based on the recommendations from the Archdiocese, we are not yet making a full return to pre-pandemic protocols, but are making the following adjustments at Mary, Queen of Peace, effective today:

- Self-screening
 - Please continue to self-screen for any symptoms.
 - Please do not come to MQP if you have symptoms (you may join via livestream).
- Facial coverings are encouraged, but not required.
- Seating
 - The entire south half of the church will be “open seating”.
 - The entire north half of the church will remain a “physical distance” section.
 - You are welcome to sit in either section, as well as the Social Hall or the Plaza.
- Communion
 - The Eucharist may be received on the hand or on the tongue.
 - The Precious Blood will not be distributed.
 - Ministers will continue to wear a facial covering while distributing Communion.
- Singing
 - We still request that there be no congregational singing of the hymns.
 - However, Mass parts and responses may be sung (Gloria, Alleluia, Amen, etc.).
- Dispensation
 - The dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass in person remains.
 - We will continue to livestream Masses and other liturgies.

Thank you for your cooperation with these updates, and for all your patience, understanding, and adapting throughout the pandemic! We will provide updates throughout the summer, as we continue to make progress towards a full return to pre-pandemic protocols.

A few things to note about the above list of protocols. First, there are a wide range of comfort levels, circumstances, and health conditions that each of us has to balance. Please respect one another's personal decisions regarding whether to wear a facial covering or not, as well as whether to sit with physical spacing or not. Second, receiving Communion either on the hand or on the tongue are both beautiful and acceptable ways to receive the Eucharist. It's extremely rare for the minister to make contact with either a person's hand or a person's tongue while distributing Communion. In the case that this does happen, the minister will stop and sanitize his or her hands before continuing with the next person. Third, if you have not yet returned to Mass in person, but have begun to feel comfortable being in other public settings, I encourage you to resume your practice of attending Mass in person. Finally, if you have a concern about any of these protocols, please call the Parish Office or send a message to office@mqp.org. We will listen and do our best to address your concern.

As you know, throughout the pandemic the parish staff and volunteer ministers have done an outstanding job offering many different options so that as many people as possible can feel comfortable coming to the church, or can participate via livestream. Please join me in thanking them for all their hard work and service in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

+++

Let's keep praying for peace and unity, and let's keep making personal decisions each day with our own thoughts, words, actions, and prayers that help us choose the Peace of Christ and grow the Kingdom of God in our world!

Mary, Queen of Peace and Mother of the New Evangelization, pray for us!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Chad Green". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.