

OUR LADY OF THE VALLEY CATHOLIC CHURCH

MASS RE-OPENING PLAN

Dear Parishioners,

Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

Bishop Cary has given permission to attend public mass beginning **Monday, May 11, 2020** with a reopening plan. It will take a few weeks or months to return to normal functioning of all activities. I request your cooperation and prayers for the smooth reopening. **We need volunteers for each individual Mass to help; READ, USHER, ZANITIZE AND CLEAN AFTER EACH MASS.** Please read through the following information and **keep in mind we can accommodate only 25 people per mass, this includes the Priest and all volunteers.**

- General Principles -

A general **dispensation from the Sunday Mass obligation will remain in place. Vulnerable, at risk and concerned persons are encouraged to remain home.** Bishop has continued the dispensation for: All who are 60 and older, who are immune compromised and who do not feel comfortable yet coming to Mass. **Anyone with the slightest symptoms or feeling of sickness must remain at home. Use of face masks/coverings by the faithful at public Masses is encouraged.**

Mass Signup -

Please sign up for one Mass per week only.

You may be added to a second list to attend another Mass during the week if an opening is available. You will be contacted by call or email the day prior.

First Mass will be on Monday, May 11 in La Grande, and on Sunday May 17 in Elgin & Union.

Masses will be on a first-come first-serve basis, once we reach the maximum number of attendees for the day, you will be asked to choose another day. **Please understand and be patient, we cannot have any one enter the church for Mass if they did not RSVP for Mass first.**

When you arrive **please use the main church entrance, doors located on L avenue, you may use the ramp entrance on 4th street if needed we just ask that you let us know ahead of time so we can have someone at that door to help you enter the church. Ramp door will be kept locked at all times.**

All other church/building doors and entrances will be locked

As you enter the church you will be greeted by an usher and asked for your reservation (name and last name) and you will be taken to your assigned seating. **The maximum number allowed in the church is 25 attendees per Mass.** (this includes the priests, liturgical ministers, ushers and those attending Mass).

- Mass Schedule for La Grande -

Monday	8:00 am
Tuesday	8:00 am
Wednesday	5:30 pm
Thursday	8:00 am
Friday	8:00 am
Saturday	5:30 pm
Sunday	10:00 am

-Mass Schedule for Union-

Sacred Heart - Sunday - 8:00 am
RSVP to drcarolwyatt@gmail.com
541-936-6474

-Mass Schedule for Elgin-

St. Mary - Sunday - 12:30 pm
RSVP to garlitzj@eoni.org
541-437-9682

- Mass & Communion-

Public Masses will be kept short (to minimize the time the faithful will be gathering in the same place).

The Apostle's Creed will be prayed. (all missalettes and loose items in the pews have been removed.)

A collection basket will be placed at the front of the church Bulletins will not be distributed. There will be no congregation singing. **Parishioners must sit where the ushers direct them,** to assure we maintain social distancing and avoid crossing in front of others to take a seat. **Social distancing must be maintained during the Communion procession.**

Single file Communion lines only, please keep 6 feet distance from one another. **Holy Communion in the hand is strongly encouraged. Members of single household may sit together** without observing social distancing with one another.

The church door will be looked at the beginning of Mass. If you missed your schedule day, please call/email the office to re-RSVP. **If you are unable to keep your schedule Mass day,** please call/email the office the day before to give an opportunity to another parishioner to attend.

- Practical Considerations -

Please use marked setting only—for more efficient disinfecting and cleaning.

The Congregation will be dismissed row by row, beginning with the rear of the church. **To maintain social distancing, we will not be congregating before or after Mass.** Please do not congregate in the vestibule or church aisles. Breakfast, coffee hour and all other church events will resume later.

- Cleaning & Sanitizing Policy -

Communion vessels will be washed with soap and water.

Restroom use - only one at a time. Please make a point of using the restroom at your home before coming to Mass; church restrooms should be limited to emergencies. **A parent, not a brother or sister, must accompany a child to the restroom.** Restrooms will be cleaned and sanitized after every Mass.

As things change day by day, we will continue to keep everyone updated as best as possible by email, phone call or regular mail. **If we do not have your correct number, email us your information so we can keep you updated.** You may also go to our webpage and see the information posted in our Bulletin area at <http://olvatholic.org/our-lady-of-the-valley-bulletins/> or you can visit our Facebook page. If you have any questions, please call or email.

Yours faithfully,

Fr. Saji Thomas CMI