



June 8th, 2020

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I am so happy that the day is coming soon when we can re-open St. Matthew Parish as I see how joyful other churches are with their re-openings. As you know, Seattle, as part of King County, is now in Phase 1.5. We are planning for re-opening our church as soon as we reach Phase 2, which allows for at least 50 parishioners to attend Mass.

The recent survey that we sent out had 79 respondents. Most of you are attending our live stream every week (we also know that up to 115 watch our live stream, and quite a few more watch the video later in the day). To feel safe at Mass, the majority of you want masks required for all attendees, hand sanitizer available at the doors, and social/physical distancing of attendees. Many of you also mentioned contact tracing information as important for your safety.

Since most of you indicated a strong preference for on-line sign up for Mass, we will explore ways to offer that option. We will still use in person contact (by phone) for those who do not have on-line access.

Most respondents indicated they wanted to be able to attend Mass weekly, but given our limited availability of seating, some of you have offered to go to a daily Mass instead of the Sunday Mass in order to make sure the most parishioners have an opportunity to attend Mass. A sizeable number of parishioners (29 respondents) said they may attend Mass in the future, but do not feel safe to do so at this time. Over half noted they will continue to watch live stream Masses, so we will continue to offer that for some time.

As we finalize our re-opening plan, following the Archdiocesan guidelines, we pledge to continue to keep everyone fully informed. I have also included with this letter two flyers: "Changes You'll See" for Mass, and "What YOU Need to Do" to prepare for and participate in Mass.

I pray for your continued patience. Very soon we will say with the psalmist, "I rejoiced when they said to me, / Let us go to the house of the Lord!" (122:1). Please continue to pray for me and for our staff, and we will continue to pray for all of you. We miss you!

In Christ,

Fr. Khanh D. Nguyen
Pastor