

A Letter from Father Alex



June 11, 2020

My dear parishioners,

COVID-19 has given us all a lot to think about. This excerpt from C.S. Lewis was written in 1942 in response to the effects of WWII, but I think it is appropriate today.

Satan: *"I will cause anxiety, fear, and panic. I will shutdown businesses, schools, places of worship and sports events. I will cause economic turmoil."*

Jesus: *"I will bring together neighbors, restore the family unit, I will bring dinner back to the kitchen table. I will help people slow down their lives and appreciate what really matters. I will teach my children to rely on me and not the world. I will teach my children to trust me and not their money and material resources."*

Now is the time that we can rejoice because our church is now beginning to reopen and we can once again celebrate the Mass together...in person. We are asking for everyone's prayers as we re-open our church. We must do it in a way that still keeps everyone safe. With the help of the Archdiocese of San Francisco and the San Mateo County, the following is our plan at Holy Angels Church.

Beginning on the weekend of June 20th and 21st we will have five Sunday Masses: 4:00pm and 6:00pm (Spanish) on Saturday and 8:00am, 10:00am (Spanish) and 12:00 Noon on Sunday. We are limited to 100 people total in the church at any one time. This schedule is only temporary until we are able to go back to our normal schedule of Masses. The Sunday 8:00am and 10:00am Masses will be live-streamed.

You may sign up ahead of time by going to our website hacolma.org and get a "ticket" to reserve a seat – we will have 50 on-line reservations per Mass. You may also download, print and complete the waiver form that must be signed by each person/family that will be attending that mass. There will be 30 additional seats available – you may either call the office to reserve a space or arrive before the mass to see if there is room.

You are asked to arrive 30 minutes before Mass is to begin. This will give the ushers time to do a temperature check of each person, to collect the form from you (the ushers will also have forms available for you) and get everyone seated before Mass begins. Everyone will enter from the side entrance on San Pedro Road. Once the Mass has begun no one else will be admitted. Everyone must wear a mask and bring hand sanitizer with them.

Our pews have already been marked for social distancing. Families who live in the same household may sit next to one another. The missalettes have been removed from the church and the holy water fonts are empty. The congregation is asked not to join the cantor in the singing; there will be no choirs at this time and limited music during the mass.

There will be no passing of the offertory basket and communion will be distributed during Mass to the liturgical ministers only. After the Concluding Blessing, those wishing to receive communion will be guided to come forward by the ushers; you will receive communion and then leave through the chapel door. Next to the statue of Jesus will be two baskets for you to be able to drop your donation for the first and second collections on your way out of the church. For those who were not able to attend Mass, Sacramental Communion will be distributed after the 4:00pm Mass on Saturday and after the 12 Noon Mass on Sunday.

We will not begin having public daily masses yet. However, we will live-stream on Monday through Friday at 12 Noon; there will be NO 12 Noon Mass on Saturday.

The dispensation is still in effect for those over 50 years old or those who have an underlying medical condition that makes them more likely to contract COVID-19. The 8:00am and 10:00am (Spanish) Mass will continue to be live-streamed so those watching from home will be able to receive Spiritual Communion.

As you can see, this process will need lots of volunteers. If you feel you would be able to help out, please call the rectory.

Stay safe and God bless you,

Fr. Alex L. Legaspi, Pastor