

# *Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish*

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May 21, 2020

Dear OLG parishioners,

There is great news: OLG will reopen public Masses on June 6-7. However, space is very limited per Archdiocesan and CDC guidelines. Please read the OLG returning to public Mass guidelines in the back of this letter. The OLG liturgy committee together with other parish leaders and Fr. Romulo and I worked together planning the safe return to public Mass enforcing the guidelines provided by Archbishop Naumann and CDC. The reported experience by the other Topeka priests is that attendance to public Mass has been light as people feel it is too risky to gather together so soon and they are all taking advantage of Archbishop Naumann's ongoing dispensation to not feel obliged to attend public Mass and enjoy Mass in the safety of your home via live stream, face book or EWTN.

The OLG finance council met last Monday evening to review the finances of the parish. The MCBAC loan balance is \$635,581.09. In the last seven years together we have reduced the debt by 50%. Thank you for your generous stewardship. However, due to more than two months public Mass suspension caused by the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic, OLG collection went down in March and April. OLG weekly budgeted collection is \$10,653.51. In March (5 weeks) we budgeted \$53,267.55. We collected \$31,266.56. Under budget -\$22,000.00. In April (4 weeks) we budgeted \$42,614.04. We collected \$31,546.95. Under budget -\$10,794.09. OLG has made cuts in expenses to reduce bills. Those cuts will be in the June 7<sup>th</sup> bulletin. OLG is making ends meet but our reserves are running low. We have been able to pay the monthly subsidy of \$21,000.00 to HFCS and \$7,000.00 to Hayden HS. We have suspended temporarily the monthly loan payment of \$10,000.00 to the Archdiocese. After July 2020, and since Fiesta is not taking place for now, money will be needed to pay the school subsidy in August.

Thanks to all who have remained staunch supporters of OLG parish during this unprecedented pandemic times. I am confident that you will continue to work tirelessly and support Fr. Agustin Martinez as he success me on July 1<sup>st</sup> for the good of the parish and to the Glory of God. I look forward to continue serving you in June and keeping you all in my prayers.

Yours truly

*Fr. Jerry Arango-Lopez.*

OLG public Mass reopening guidelines for the month of June

1. During the time of the Coronavirus pandemic Archbishop Naumann has given Catholics in the Archdiocese a dispensation from attending in person public Mass. OLG will continue to live stream daily Mass from Tuesday to Friday 6:30 pm Spanish Mass and 7:30 pm English Mass. Sunday Mass live stream 9:00 am English and 11:00 am Spanish beginning on June 7<sup>th</sup>.
2. Any person feeling uncomfortable coming back to public Mass knowing the risks involved should stay home, especially those in high risk groups such as people with serious underlying medical conditions and the elderly.
3. Those consciously choosing to take the risk to attend public Mass **must wear a mask** and bring their **personal hand sanitizer** and a **towel** to cover the upper part of the pew in front of you that you will touch during Mass.
4. During consecration time all people will stand up, or be seated if unable to stand up for long, so that you avoid touching the kneelers.
5. A six feet social distance must be kept from other people. Only those living in the same household can sit together in proximity.
6. Mass cannot last more than 45 minutes as directed by Archbishop Naumann. There will be no congregational singing, only an accompanist and a cantor.
7. People cannot congregate socializing before or after Mass per Archdiocese and CDC guidelines. That means to please go home immediately after Mass. The church will be sanitized after Mass to be ready for the next group.
8. **Holy Communion will be given only in the hand.**
9. OLG can only safely accommodate 48 people seated in the pews using every third pew keeping the six feet distance in between people to comply with Archdiocesan and CDC guidelines.
10. If you choose to attend public Mass you must call the church office (785) 232-5088 to RSVP and make sure you have a spot. Only those people who called ahead will be admitted.
11. Access into the church will be only through the main front entrance.
12. During the month of June, English Masses will be on Saturday at 4:00 pm and Sunday at 9:00 am only. Spanish Masses on Saturday at 6:00 pm and Sunday at 11:00 am. After July 1<sup>st</sup>. Fr. Agustin Martinez may adjust the Mass schedule to what it was before.
13. **Confessions** will be **only on Wednesdays outdoors in the parking lot.** English confessions on Wednesday from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm and Spanish Confessions from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm
14. If you RSVP for Mass, that means for one Sunday only. You may have to wait until the following month to be admitted to Mass again so that others have the opportunity to also attend Mass the following weekends as occupancy is limited to 48 people per Mass.
15. In order to welcome others to Mass who cannot make the cut for a Sunday Mass 48 people will be welcome to the Tuesday 7:30 pm mass and Friday 7:30 pm Mass.  
\*Thank you for your cooperation, patience and understanding as we go through this unprecedented time.