

Our Lady of Guadalupe

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Dear OLG parish family,

Peace be with you! I hope this letter finds you doing well as we all adapt to a new normal way of life during the current pandemic keeping social distancing for the safety of all you love and all around us.

The Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas has given priests guidelines to reopen public Mass respecting the local county recommendations depending on Covid-19 cases locally. Reopening churches for public Mass will not be easy for any priest or parishioner since occupancy is limited as we can use only every third pew and keep six feet space in between people. Only members of a same household can sit together in proximity. Keeping that in mind, OLG has space for only 48 people to attend Mass. Each person must wear a face mask and bring their personal hand sanitizer. Some people are ready to come back to church, while others think and feel it is too risky and too soon to do that. Archbishop Naumann is giving us all dispensation from Mass obligation. Anyone who is an at-risk health group or does not feel comfortable attending a public gathering should stay home. Even in the best health practices and increased efforts to clean church, there is a risk of infection anytime a person enters a public space. Anyone who is sick or has recently been exposed to the coronavirus should refrain from attending Mass as it is an act of Christian charity to safeguard the health of others.

Last week the OLG Liturgy committee met with me and Fr. Romulo and the chairs of the Pastoral and Finance Councils, Music ministry, members of the K of C, Sr. Rebecca and Spanish Mass leaders and they unanimously recommended to delay reopening OLG until June due to increased Covid-19 cases in workplaces where some known OLG parishioners work. They also felt it was too risky and too soon. I informed Archbishop Naumann and he thought it was a prudent decision and he supports it. Even though other Topeka parishes will reopen public Mass this weekend, their pastors will only welcome their registered parishioners previously selected or invited and they kindly ask that OLG parishioners please do not attend their parishes as they have very limited room too. I am sure you understand.

We all long for the day when we can gather as a full parish family, hug our friends, and praise the Lord together, but until that time comes, let's continue to act out of love and charity towards each other, and all do our part to keep our communities as safe and healthy as possible. We have all made many sacrifices over the last several weeks to benefit the common good, let's not have those efforts be in vain if we rush this process or look for ways around the regulations. Let's keep our trust in the Lord, to see this through until we can gather again in full.

Thank you for your continued love and staunch support to OLG through your prayers and ongoing financial gifts to keep our beautiful parish afloat at this time. May God continue to bless you with good health, family love, peace and joy.



Fr. Jerry Arano-Lonce.