

St. Philomena Catholic Church

3300 Ala Laulani St. Honolulu, HI 96818
(Phone) (808)839-1876 www.stphilomenahawaii.org

Re-Opening of Masses to Public of the St. Philomena Church

May 25, 2020

In conjunction with the directives of the Diocese of Honolulu issued on May 22, 2020, I am glad to announce the reopening our church, resuming our normal schedule, beginning Saturday 5 pm on May 30, and then 7 am, 9 am and 11:15 am on Sunday May 31, then so on and so forth. We are resuming our daily mass schedule as normal.

Dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday mass: our Bishop Larry has granted the dispensation from Sunday mass through June 30, 2020. This will allow those who are not comfortable attending mass at this time to stay away with a clear conscience. **We will continue the live-streamed mass at 9 AM mass on Sundays.**

Stay at home: As an act of charity, anyone who are sick, who are particularly vulnerable to infection, or is in a high-risk group should not force yourself to attend mass at this time.

Welcome back, please remember to **wear your mask or face covering, sanitize your hands, and keep 6 feet social distance.**

We have formulated the protocols below to ensure the safety and health of the parishioners of the St. Philomena Church.

I. On Preparing and Keeping our Worship Facility Safe and Clean

1. Sanitizers are provided at the entrances of the church.
2. The places to be occupied in the pews are properly marked for sitting to observe social distancing. The people should strictly occupy only those places indicated. The pews are marked for sitting according to social distancing protocol.
3. The pews are disinfected before mass, and have to be disinfected after each mass; I need 6 people's help after each mass. Please let the users or me know if you are willing to help, the equipment will be provided such as gloves, spray and microfiber towels.
4. The front entrance of the church will be the only entrance, and the side doors are to be used as exits after mass.
5. The floors inside the church are properly marked with signs for social distancing to facilitate and guide parishioners during communion.
6. The Holy Water fonts will remain empty.
7. The hymnals, missalettes, and printed hymns are not provided in the pews. We will use our monitors to project Hymns and prayers.
8. The church area may accommodate 70 unit (could be single or couple or family), about 100 people only each Mass to observe social distancing.
9. Parish comfort room is properly cleaned.

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II. During the Celebration of Holy Mass

1. All the people attending the Mass and those who are serving should wear a face mask. The ushers should see to it that all assembly members in the church are wearing a face mask.
2. The face mask should be worn by all the Mass servers – the altar servers, sacristan, EMHC, cantor, and lectors when not reading.
3. The assigned sacristan who prepares the hosts, water, and wine for consecration needs to observe proper hygiene and health protocols.
4. Only the Body of Christ will be served during communion.
5. In each Mass, there will be only one/two altar servers, two lectors, and three Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.
6. The ushers will be watchful and remind people of the social distancing protocol. (*Training much needed for these ushers!*)
7. Once the pews are filled properly, ushers will advise people to wait outside or return for next mass.
8. There will no longer be offertory processions. The offerings can be dropped in the Koa bowl at the entrance of the church. Ushers will then bring the bowl in front during the offertory. There will be no offering of the bread and wine coming from the people.
9. There will be no holding of hands at the Our Father and no handshakes at the giving of peace. A bow with a smiling face can already be a good sign of peace.
10. The Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and the priests should sanitize their hands before and after they give communion. It is good that this is done in view of the people to give them assurance of the hygienic practice.
11. The communion line will form in the middle of the church (one line only). People will follow the markings/signs on the floor for placement in keeping the social distancing.
12. All the ministers and the priests should wear face masks during the giving of the communion.
13. If the congregation is small enough, especially at weekday Masses, only the priest will give communion.

III. After Each Mass

1. The ushers are not to hand out bulletins or other materials. You may pick up one by yourself from the box near the entrance/exit.
2. After each Mass, the people coming in for the next Mass will not be allowed to enter until the pews have been sanitized by volunteers. The following items must be sanitized after each Mass: pews, lecterns, microphones, doors and doorknobs.
3. No post-Mass fellowship until further notice.
4. The vessels used during the Mass should continue to be washed after each Mass with soap and water – as they always should be, even in normal circumstances.

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IV. Parish Ministers and Volunteers

All liturgical ministers and volunteers must go through training for the opening of the church. They are expected to attend on-going training when necessary updates arise. There will be no exceptions considering the exceptional circumstances and modification of appropriate protocol. These include: Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, ushers, altar servers, lectors, cantors, choir members and musicians, sacristans and other ministers.

V. Masses Schedules beginning on Saturday May 30, 2020:

Daily Masses

7:15 AM (Monday to Friday)

6:00 PM (Wednesday)

8:00 AM (Saturday)

Weekend Masses

Saturday (Vigil Mass)

5:00 PM (Jerilyn Chang in charge sanitizing the church)

Sunday

7:00 AM

9:00 AM (Evelyn N. Dean and her son will help for sanitizing the church)

11:15 AM

Confessions:

Every Saturday at 8:30AM or by Appointment

Brothers and sisters, I hope this new norms won't be long, as in Hawaii, we are longing to shake hands and hugging to express our love to one another. However, this is what needs to be observed because of the pandemic, so please be patient, please be prudent and vigilant, most of all, be safe and be healthy! Thanks for your understanding, please be kind and thankful to each other. I am so excited to see your beautiful faces, even with your mask on, this coming weekend! Many blessings be with you all.

Your brother in Christ

Fr. Dong Min Li "Paul"