



***Saint Anthony's Parish***

2347 Inglewood Avenue  
West Vancouver, B.C.  
V7V 1Z9

May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020

Dear Parishioner

It is with great joy that we are able to tell you St. Anthony's Parish is again permitted to offer public Masses within our church and we look forward to welcoming you to the celebration of Mass following the guidelines described in this letter. Although there are still concerns regarding the Coved-19, following the advice of the Provincial Health Officer, Archbishop Miller specified the conditions under which parishes may once again offer public Masses with parishioners in attendance. The full list of guidelines is available on the RCAF website ([rcav.org](http://rcav.org)).

St. Anthony's will begin celebrating public weekend Mass, on Pentecost Sunday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>, at the following times: Saturday May 30<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 p.m., and 6:00 p.m., Sunday 31<sup>st</sup>, 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., and 11:30 a.m.

Weekday public Masses will begin on June 1<sup>st</sup>, Monday through Saturday at 9:00 a.m., Tuesday at 6:30 p.m., and First Friday at 7:00 p.m.

**This Letter will require an active response from you, to facilitate your attendance at one of these Masses.**

**We require the help of volunteers to facilitate the celebration of Masses.**

This letter will cover these important areas:

- Guidelines which we must follow
- Volunteers
- Registration process for the attendance at Mass
- Church facilities and amenities

It is important to note, that given provincial guidelines, at this time we are not able to return to either the schedule or practices which were in effect prior to the cancelling of public Mass earlier this year.

Archbishop Miller stressed it is not only important that we follow the guidelines laid out for us, but we must also be seen to be following those guidelines.

The Archbishop reaffirmed, **"All faithful in the Archdiocese of Vancouver remain dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass during this the initial opening phase."**



## GUIDELINES

All those attending Mass do so at their own risk. It is important for individuals and families to take the responsibility for themselves and others.

The following *must* stay home for the sake of the wider community:

- People with Covid-19 or who live with someone who has Covid-19.
- People who have been exposed to someone with Covid-19.
- The sick, including those with the slightest symptoms of sickness, including upper respiratory or flu-like symptoms.
- Those who have recently travelled outside of Canada.

The following are encouraged to stay home for the sake of the wider community:

- People who live with someone with upper respiratory or flu-like symptoms.
- People, especially the elderly, with underlying or compromised medical conditions.
- Family members who live with elderly people who are at risk.

In compliance with the order of the Provincial Health Officer, the maximum number of persons in the church at any given time will be fifty (50).

To facilitate contact tracing, should that become necessary, the parish is **required** to keep a record of the names and contact information of EVERYONE who is present at EVERY Mass.

Attendance at the weekend Masses will require each attending person to reserve a seat (space). Families and couples must reserve a seat (space) for each member of the family. Every person present in the church is included in the maximum count of fifty (50).

Seating in the church will be designated, this will facilitate compliance with physical-distancing guidelines.

Parishioners will sign-up for the specific weekend Mass of their choice. This will then be their designated Mass time each week.

If more than fifty (50) persons sign-up for a specific Mass, it may be necessary to create two groups for a given Mass time. Two groups would be established and identified (for example 10:00 A, and 10:00 B,) This would allow everyone to attend at the time of their choice and would require a process of alternating attendance between group A and group B to every second week.



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*If the number exceeding fifty (50) is relatively small an effort could be made to solicit changes in registrants which would allow everyone to attend weekly.*

Entrance to the church will be clearly indicated. Parishioners will be asked to monitor their entrance so as to maintain physical distancing in the parking lot, at the door, on the stairs, and in the vestibule.

All persons attending will be required to use hand sanitizer (which will be provided and dispensed) upon entering and leaving the church.

All parishioners will be acknowledged, their reservation confirmed, in the vestibule upon arrival and their attendance will be recorded.

Non-registered persons are NOT permitted to attend Mass on a 'drop-in' basis. Pre-registration is required for all weekend Masses.

Following the completion of Mass the exit doors will be open and all attending parishioners will be asked to observe physical distancing while vacating the church. Directions will be given as required.

Physical distancing must be maintained, and seen as being maintained, at all times within the church and in the parking lot before and after Mass.

An orderly, yet expedited, exit from the church will facilitate the necessary sanitizing practices required for the next scheduled Mass to begin.

## VOLUNTEERS

To facilitate the conducting of public Masses, both weekend and weekday, additional volunteers are required. St. Anthony's is hoping to offer five weekend Masses each requiring the same volunteer services.

Volunteers should NOT be anyone who would be classified in the high-risk group because of age, an existing health concern, or any other reason.

**We need your help. If you are able and willing to assist on a regular basis with any of the following, and you are not included in the above category, please register your name and Mass time availability by phoning:**

***Pat Battensby, 604 926 4291, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. – Noon.***



**Without sufficient volunteers our ability to move forward will be severely curtailed.**

Volunteers will be provided with necessary equipment and 'training'.

Volunteers will dispense hand sanitizer to all those in attendance, both prior to entering the church and following Mass as they exit.

Volunteers will confirm the identity and presence of every person in attendance (to facilitate contact tracing).

Volunteers will oversee the offering baskets.

Volunteers will guide/direct parishioners to available pews if necessary.

Volunteers will remind those attending of physical-distancing requirements as necessary.

Teams will sanitize public areas of the church following all Masses.

#### SIGNING-UP FOR MASS

It absolutely necessary we all sign-up for the weekend Mass we plan to attend.

**Drop-ins are not permitted.**

Reserve one seat for each person in your family attending Mass.

Each parishioner is limited to signing up for only one weekend Mass.

There are three options to sign-up for a Mass time:

Email option:

Send an email to the parish office at, [parish.sawv@rcav.org](mailto:parish.sawv@rcav.org). You will receive an email from the parish indicating your name(s) has been recorded for the specific Mass time you requested. Emails received after 4:00 p.m. on Thursday will not be registered for the upcoming weekend.

Phone option:

You may call the Parish office, 604 926 6881, during the following times: Monday through Thursday between 9:00 a.m. – Noon & 12:30 – 4:00 p.m.



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In person option:

You may register in person by coming to the parish office during the following times: Monday to Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – Noon & 12:30 – 4:00 p.m.

Please note that in each of the three options you will be required to provide:

- The name(s) of each person in your family who will be attending Mass as a 'unit'.
- The telephone number(s) at which these persons may be contacted.
- The Mass time you wish to attend (as listed above). Please provide both a first and a second choice.

Your name(s) will be added to the list and this will become your weekly Mass time. There will be no need for you to re-register every week.

Please be aware that if a particular Mass is over-subscribed the group will be divided into a 'group A' and a 'group B' and those enrolled for that specific Mass will be advised.

*As we move forward there may well be the need for individuals to 'change' their Mass times. We ask that these requests be **delayed** until we are operational and have the time and resources to facilitate such changes.*

Weekday Masses:

Beginning Monday June 1<sup>st</sup>, weekday Masses will once again be open for public attendance. Monday through Saturday Mass will be at 9:00 a.m., and on Tuesday at 6:30 p.m., which will be followed by devotional prayer time honouring St. Anthony.

All of the guidelines which will be in place for weekend Masses will apply to weekday Masses. This will require that sufficient volunteers are available to perform the necessary tasks.

At this time pre-registration will NOT be required for weekday Mass however, all those attending must register **before** entering the church. Volunteers will monitor those in attendance and once the number reaches fifty (50) no further persons will be permitted to attend.



## CHURCH FACILITIES AND AMENITIES

It is expected that not all of our parishioners will be in a position to return to Mass attendance at this time therefore we will continue to live-stream the Sunday 10:00 a.m. Mass.

Not all of church facilities will be available for public use.

The upstairs washroom will be available for emergency use. *Please note washrooms are available for one time use only and then require mandatory sanitizing.*

The downstairs washrooms are closed and unavailable.

The family room (Sacristy, 'crying room') will NOT be available during any of the Mass times.

Specific guidelines for participation in Mass, such as receiving Holy Communion, will be given at each Mass.

Signage will be posted in appropriate locations to assist with the adherence to required guidelines.

Although the wearing of masks is not mandatory in our province all attending parishioners may bring and wear a mask if they wish.

We appreciate that some of the foregoing may appear cumbersome, but we are overjoyed that we are now permitted to celebrate The Holy Eucharist in public. We are, however, aware that a number of our parishioners, for reasons of health, will not be able to visit the church at this time. We will continue to hold them in our prayers as we unite as a parish community.

Together we will work our way through these times and where necessary, we will learn new ways of coming together to celebrate our faith. If we approach these guidelines and restrictions with an open heart and a caring for the welfare of others, we will be sharing in the work of Jesus.

Sincerely

Fr. Gary Franken, Pastor & Parish Leadership Team