

# St. Barbara Catholic Church

## Outdoor Liturgy Q&A

Q: What if it rains?

A: Mass will be celebrated rain or shine. Be prepared by bringing umbrellas, sunscreen and sunglasses.

Q: What is the difference between outdoor and drive-in Mass?

A: The Catholic Church is only doing outdoor Masses at this time. At outdoor Masses we gather as a community, just like we would in the Church. Drive-up religious services were permitted by the governor, but were not deemed in keeping with Catholic liturgy. There is simply no way to hold a reverent Mass with everyone seated in their cars.

Q: Why is Mass outdoors and not indoors?

A: King County is in Stage 1 where outdoor Masses of up to 100 persons are currently approved. It is much easier to maintain social distancing and sanitize outdoors.

Q: Why can't chairs be set up?

A: There are two good reasons we are asking you to bring your own chair. If we were to set up chairs, we would be required to sanitize every chair in between each Mass. This would require a lot of time and effort, as well as greater possibility of potentially spreading virus. Having you bring your own chair also saves us a lot of unnecessary work. If we set up 100 chairs and it rains, we would likely have a lot of empty seating.

Q: Why do I have to wear a mask?

A: The state of Washington is requiring that masks be worn at all times. The virus is known to spread easiest through person-to-person contact, specifically airborne. Masks are the easiest way to protect yourself and

others from potential infection. We are asking that you respect others by wearing a mask at all times on parish property.

Q: Why do I have to sign-up?

A: The Archdiocese of Seattle is requiring that all parishes use a sign-up system. This will allow us to inform you if you are exposed to COVID-19 on St. Barbara property. We are also required to strictly uphold the maximum person guidelines for each Mass. A sign-up system saves you from being turned away from Mass.

Q: How do I sign-up?

A: Visit the parish website: [www.stbarbarachurch.org](http://www.stbarbarachurch.org) to sign-up. You can also call the Parish Office. Leaving a voicemail at the Parish Office does NOT guarantee you a Mass spot. If you leave a message, a parish staff member will call you to confirm your spot.

Q: What happens after I sign-up?

A: You will receive a phone call one or two days prior to Mass with reminders about attending Mass. Once you arrive at Church, proceed to the check-in line. You will be asked to verify your name and phone number. You will then be directed to a seat.

Q: Why can't I pick my own seat?

A: It is important that we maintain strict social distancing. We must fill the space in a certain order to prevent people from having to pass other families at an inappropriate distance.

Q: Will Mass be the same?

A: No, there are several important changes. There will be no procession, no sign of peace, no singing, no Offertory collection basket passed, Communion will only be in the form of the consecrated host and can only be received in the hand, and Communion will be distributed as you

exit. Mass will last about 35 minutes. All these changes are following Archdiocesan guidelines to keep everyone safe.

Q: Why can't we sing?

A: The virus is known to spread most easily through the air. Singing involves projecting particles into the air. This is known to be the most detrimental way of spreading the virus as these particles can travel extremely far. Singing with a mask on is simply a safety hazard for your own oxygen levels.

Q: Will there be Communion?

A: Yes. Communion will be distributed at the end of Mass as you are exiting.

Q: How do I receive Communion?

A: Bring all of your belongings with you as you will exit immediately after receiving Communion. Pull down your mask as the person in front of you is receiving Communion. Receive Communion like you normally would (in the hand only). The Extraordinary Minister of Communion has been instructed not to touch your hands. Replace your mask after receiving Communion.

Q: Isn't there a better way of adjusting the liturgy?

A: Maybe there is. However, in an effort to preserve our identity as Catholic, meaning "universal" Church, our liturgy should be as close to other Catholic liturgies as possible. With that in mind, the Archdiocese has given clear liturgical guidelines to help us make adjustments that will work for all parishes.