

GUIDELINES FOR THE REOPENING OF  
OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP CHURCH  
IN EWA BEACH, HAWAII

**ADAPTED FROM THE GUIDELINES  
ISSUED BY BISHOP LARRY SILVA, BISHOP OF HONOLULU  
FOR THE REOPENING OF CATHOLIC CHURCHES IN HAWAII  
DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC (May 22, 2020)**

**Regarding Public Masses**

1. OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP CHURCH (OLPH) in EWA BEACH, HAWAII, like all Catholic churches, missions, chapels and oratories in Hawaii will reopen for public worship the weekend of May 30/31, Pentecost Sunday. Our parish and hospitality ministers have been preparing to assist parishioners in following these Guidelines.
2. It is very IMPORTANT to understand that the dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass is extended through **June 30, 2020**. This will allow those who are not comfortable attending Mass at this time to stay away with a clear conscience. Before June 30, 2020, Bishop will evaluate whether or not to extend the dispensation longer and we may have new directive in this regard.
3. As an act of charity, anyone who is sick, who is particularly vulnerable to infection, or is in a high-risk group should not attend Mass at this time.
4. All who attend Mass must maintain proper social distancing (6 feet). In OLPH Parish, our chairs are arranged to meet social distance guidelines and so members of the same household will continue to follow social distance requirement, unless they have child/children below 5 years old with them. In this case, the ushers will guide them to the designated seating for families with children of such age.
5. The social distancing protocol will mean that not everyone who would like to go to a particular Mass may be able to do so, because of the limited space in the church. OLPH Parish will follow the following procedures in limiting the number of people who will attend each Mass, and we ask your patience and cooperation.
  - a. ***Tickets/Reservations:***
    - i. Parishioners may make reservations on:  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/our-lady-of-perpetual-help-church-pentecost-sunday-masses-tickets-106738184784>
    - ii. This link will be available on myParish app, the OLPH website; Facebook and Instagram account.
    - iii. Reservations will be open every Tuesday at 12:00pm (noon) until all seats are taken.

- iv. On Mondays, the parish office will take walk ins and call ins ONLY! This is only for our kupuna (65 years and older) who don't have access to any computer or electronic applications.
  - 1. This is limited to husband, wife and caregiver.
  - 2. Monday reservations will be from 9am-4pm (during office hours)
- v. The youth, young adults and others who are "tech-savvy" are encouraged to still use the link and apps to make reservations.
- vi. The church on-line reservation is limited to 95 people per Mass.
- vii. It is one ticket per person. A ticket or reservation will be needed for you to attend Mass.

**6. The Mass schedule of OLPH Parish:**

**a. Mass Schedule:**

**i. Daily Masses:**

- 1. Monday to Friday: 8:15am & 7:00pm. The communal recitation of the Holy Rosary precedes the Mass.

**ii. Weekend Masses:**

- 1. Saturdays: 8:15am. The communal recitation of the Holy Rosary precedes the Mass.
- 2. Saturday Vigil: 5:00pm
- 3. Sundays: 7:00am, 9:00am, 11:00am & 5:00pm

**iii. Kupuna Masses (65 years and older):**

- 1. Mondays: 8:15am
- 2. Saturdays: 8:15am

**iv. Live stream Masses will be Saturdays at 5:00pm & Sundays at 9:00am.**

- v. We will try to continue the live streaming of daily Mass until further notice.

**7. Masks or face coverings will be worn by all who attend Mass. The only exceptions will be the priest-celebrant, while he is speaking, and the lectors and cantors, while they are reading or singing. Particular care should be taken to maintain social distancing for cantors, since the projection of the voice can carry particulates a longer distance.**

- a. Everyone will be entering through the main doors of the church.
- b. At the entrance, one of the ushers will greet you and check for your ticket/reservation.
- c. You may print out your ticket or show your reservation using your gadget to the usher. Please hold on to your ticket. Do not give it to the usher.
- d. Another usher will escort you to your seat.
- e. You are to remain at your assigned seat throughout the Mass.
- f. After the Mass, you are to remain at your seat until you are dismissed by one of the ushers.
- g. Time will be needed to clean and sanitize the church between Masses, and dismissal will be by rows, so that people can maintain social distancing as they exit, so this may necessitate a greater amount of time between Masses.

8. Baptismal fonts and holy water fonts will be emptied.
9. There are several hand sanitizers placed around the church for parishioners to use. We highly encourage that parishioners bring their personal sanitizers and wipes.
10. Hymnals, missalettes and other worship material will be removed in the church. In OLPH Parish, we will be using the projector to participate in singing, responses and other prayers. Parishioners are free to bring their own missals with them, if desired.
  - a. OLPH will not be printing out bulletins. Bulletins can be downloaded or viewed on the parish website: [www.olphewabeach.org](http://www.olphewabeach.org); on myParishApp and Facebook account of the parish.
11. There will be no Offertory Procession during the Mass. Therefore, upon arrival at the main doors, offertory baskets will be placed at the main entrance for your Mass offering.
  - a. We strongly encourage you consider making your offering through “Faith Direct.” See the parish website or myParishApp for information.
12. The normal presentation of the gifts of bread and wine will not take place. These will be brought to the altar from a credence table by the celebrant.
13. There will be no physical contact during the Lord’s Prayer or the Sign of Peace. A bow, a smile, or a wave will serve as a true sign of peace to one’s neighbor.
14. For Holy Communion, all ministers of Holy Communion will wear masks.
  - a. In OLPH Parish, those receiving Holy Communion will not process to the communion stations as usual.
  - b. They are to remain standing at their seat area, and the Priest or the Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion will be moving around to distribute.
  - c. For those who will not receive Holy Communion, for whatever reason, it is requested that they cross their arms on their chest as a sign to the minister that they only ask for a blessing.
  - d. For each communicant, just before receiving Holy Communion, the communicant will remove the mask, receive Communion reverently, then immediately replace the mask.
15. Communion on the hand (one hand held open above the other) is strongly encouraged at this time, for the greater health and safety of all.
16. The Most Holy Body of Christ will be the only species to be distributed. The Precious Blood will only be taken by the priest.
17. All ministers of Holy Communion, including the clergy, will sanitize their hands immediately before distributing Communion and immediately after doing so. (A small stand or table will be in place near a sanitizer station so that if a minister feels his or her hands may have been contaminated, the paten/ciborium can be placed on the stand or table momentarily while the minister sanitizes his or her hands.)

**18.** People should leave the church according to the directives given by the ushers or the priest in order to maintain social distancing during the leave-taking. Congregating in the parking lot or elsewhere on church ground is discouraged.

**19.** No social gathering (e.g. coffee and donuts) may be held after Mass.

**20.** Immediately after Mass the church, bathrooms and vessels used at the Mass will be sanitized.

- a. We kindly ask everyone to take good care of our restrooms. Make sure to treat our restrooms as your own at home.
- b. We also ask that a parent should always accompany their child to the restroom at all times.

**Other sacraments and church meetings:**

**21.** Priests may hear confessions, as long as they do so with both priest and penitent taking proper precautions, including social distancing and wearing masks.

- a. **Confessions** will resume on Saturdays from 4:30pm – 5:00pm at the school lanai for open ventilation or by appointment.

**22.** Priests, deacons and other duly commissioned Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion – who are not at high risk of infection themselves -- may take Communion to the homebound, always exercising proper hygiene procedures and wearing masks.

**23.** Funerals, weddings, and Baptisms shall be arranged by calling or a visit to the parish office. The diocesan guidelines in these celebrations will be followed.

**24.** Confirmation and First Holy Communion shall be taken care of by the Religious Education Office. The diocesan guidelines in these celebrations will be followed.

**25.** OLPH Church will be made available for private prayer during Office Hours. For safety reasons, the church will be locked and will continue to be monitored by the church camera system. The church will be opened accordingly upon personal request through the parish office and only after proper instructions for use are given.

**26.** In-person church meetings may resume. Please call the parish office to make arrangements for any meetings.



**For OLPH LAY MINISTERS:**

**ALL ministers are asked to serve one (1) ministry each weekend and in only one (1) Mass. This will give opportunities for others to serve or attend Mass. Ministers are asked to be at the church grounds 30 minutes before Mass they are assigned to serve. They will gather in the breezeway for the checking in to be done by their respective team leaders. They will be asked that their**

**temperatures will be taken and logged. All ministers will be entering through the wooden doors on the Campbell side.**

27. **CHOIR** is limited to five (5) members each Mass. This number includes the pianist, cantor, musicians, other singers. No sharing of books or hymnals. Cantor may sing without his/her mask but should put it back on when not singing. Choir members are to remain in their seats until they are dismissed by the usher. Cantor binder will be sanitized after each Mass.
28. **EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION (EMHC)** are limited to only two (2) for each Mass. EMHCs must wear their masks at all times, even during distribution of Holy Communion. EMHCs must sanitize their hands immediately before and after the Holy Communion.
  - a. A small stand or table will be in place near a sanitizer station so that if a minister feels his or her hands may have been contaminated, the paten/ciborium can be placed on the stand or table momentarily while the minister sanitizes his or her hands.
  - b. EMHCs are not to help with cleaning the vessels after the Mass. Only the sacristan is allowed in the sacristy during this time. EMHCs are to remain in their seats until they are dismissed by the usher.
29. **LECTORS** will remain at two (2) per Mass. There will be no procession with the Book of the Gospel. The Prayers of the Faithful binder will be sanitized after each Mass.
30. The role of the **COMMENTATOR** will be taken by one of the lectors or by the cantor.
31. Only the assigned **SACRISTAN** for that Mass will be allowed in the sacristy and will be the only one allowed to prepare the vessels, bread, wine, etc. for the Mass. No other lay minister should be in the sacristy at any time.
  - a. The sacristan will distribute Holy Communion to the choir and the EMHC side of the church. He should give way this role if a deacon is present.
  - b. **Note:** with the tabernacle now at the sanctuary, the sacristan does not need to get the reserved Hosts. This will be taken care of by the priest himself or by the deacon, if present.
  - c. Vessels will remain on the credence table until after the Mass then it can be brought to the sacristy to be cleaned and sanitized.
32. **USHERS** are limited to only five (5) per Mass so that they can also have seats in the church. All ushers must wear face masks at all times. Ushers are to avoid contact with surfaces or individuals.
  - a. Ushers are to escort parishioners to their seats, starting by filling up the front seats first. The back seats should be reserved for families with children 5 years and below. Seats in the middle facing the altar is to be reserved for any elderly or handicapped individuals.
  - b. The side glass doors should be opened during Mass for ventilation and as exit areas.
  - c. Ushers will then assist in sanitizing the chairs and doors after the Mass.
33. **LIVE STREAMING CREW** is limited to only two (2) individuals during those designated Masses. They will sanitize their stations after the Mass.

- 34. ALTAR SERVERS** will not be serving at Mass for now. This is because most of them are children. For their safety and health, we asked them to be with their families, if they happen to attend the Mass. In addition,
- a. Only the priest and deacon, if present, will process in from the sacristy at the beginning of the Mass and will process to the sacristy after the Mass.
  - b. The priest will use the lectern for the Roman Missal.
  - c. All vessels, sacred linens and species for the Mass will be at the credence table, which will be stationed next to the altar.

MAHALO FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND PATIENCE AS WE GO THROUGH THIS NEW NORMAL EVEN IN THE CELEBRATION OF TH EUCHARIST.

Rev. Fr. Edmundo N. Barut, Jr.  
Pastor  
26 May 2020