

Oratory Guidelines

Effective August 17, 2020

To continue to gather together in worship and help keep each other healthy, the following guidelines have been established.

Mass at the St. John Paul II Newman Center will be offered for students (all college students in the Omaha area), JP II Newman staff, FOCUS missionaries, and individual UNO faculty members. Visitors from other parishes will not be able to attend Mass at JP II Newman at this time.

The dispensation from the Sunday and Holy Day obligation remains in place. Catholics should continue to keep the Sabbath holy with intentional time for prayer, including engagement in the readings for the day, which may be enhanced through watching a live-streamed Mass and making an act of spiritual communion. We will continue to livestream the 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass.

The following are encouraged to stay at home:

- a) Students with underlying medical conditions;
- b) Students who live with elderly people or those who are at risk;
- c) Students who have access to those at risk in nursing institutions;
- d) Students who have upper respiratory or flu like symptoms;
- e) Students who live with someone with upper respiratory or flu like symptoms;
- f) Students with novel coronavirus or live with someone with novel coronavirus;
- g) Students who have been exposed to someone with novel coronavirus.

Entrance/ Exit

Please park in the main parking lot (north of the building) and enter and exit using the bell tower door for liturgies or the main door on the northwest side of the building to access the oratory at other times for prayer. Sanitize hands before entering the narthex and again after leaving the oratory before using the door to exit. The wooden doors to the oratory will remain open to reduce touching common surfaces.

Oratory Schedule

(please check the website calendar for possible schedule changes)

Holy Hour

Monday-Wednesday, Friday 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Reconciliation

Monday-Wednesday, Friday 4:50-5:20 p.m.

Thursday 7:50-8:20 p.m.

Mass Monday-Wednesday, Friday 5:30 p.m.

Thursday 8:30 p.m.

Saturday 9:30 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m. & 8:30 p.m.

Guidelines for Mass

Seating

Students may sit as individuals or as together as roommates. Please keep 6 feet in between individuals/households and leave every other pew empty. To help maximize our space, please fill in the pews beginning at the front and move to the center of the aisle.

Black chairs have been added to the back of the oratory and the narthex to provide extra seating while keeping safe distances. Please do not rearrange these chairs.

Additional overflow seating: Thursday evening and Sunday Masses will be streamed in Karol's Commons. The same distancing requirements (6 ft in between individuals/households) should be observed.

Face Coverings and Hand Sanitizer

Masks are required in our building and should continue to be worn while attending Mass.

Please consider bringing a small container of hand sanitizer with you to use before and after receiving communion and before and after using the confessional door.

Reception of Holy Communion

Those who will be receiving Holy Communion, may do so at the Communion rail, either kneeling or standing. Please proceed down the center aisle (maintaining distance as possible) and form a line along the rail, beginning nearest the windows and moving toward the center. The priest will come to you to administer Holy Communion. Students should try to avoid touching the rail, however in the event that the rail is accidentally touched, a server will follow behind the priest to clean it. If you are receiving Communion on the hand, please continue wearing your mask while the Eucharist is placed in your hand. Remove your mask with your other hand, and place the Eucharist in your mouth. Please do not attempt to slip the Eucharist under your mask while it is being worn. For those who wish to receive Communion on the tongue, please lower or remove your mask when Father approaches with the Blessed Sacrament.

An usher will lead those in overflow seating into the oratory for Communion.

Volunteers for cleaning after Mass

In order to continue providing a safe place to celebrate Mass, we will need 5 volunteers after each Mass to wipe down the pews. Thank you for your generosity!

Holy Hour

See guidelines for seating at Mass.

Confession

Confession will be available in the confessional in the back of the oratory. At this time, there will be no "face to face" option available. Please kneel at the kneeler behind the screen. Please form a line along the north window ledge. Keep 6ft in between each person.

Visits for Personal Prayer

In addition to the scheduled holy hour, the oratory will continue to be available for private prayer. Masks are required in the oratory as with other common spaces. Please clean your own place with the cleaning products provided when you are finished praying.