

May 27, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The day of Pentecost is often considered the birth of the Church. The risen and ascended Jesus gave the Holy Spirit to the first disciples to empower them for mission. On that day, as a sign of the universal reach of the mission, the Spirit enables the preaching of the gospel to be heard for the first time in all languages. The giving of Spirit continues today through the anointing's of baptism and confirmation. The gifts of the Spirit enable all disciples to play a part in the Church's mission of healing and renewal.

It is fitting today, on Pentecost, that we start to look at the multi-phased plan for reopening parishes within the Archdiocese of Chicago. This is a gradual plan that recognizes the need to balance the health and safety of each person along with their spiritual wellbeing. There are currently three phases as outlined by the Archdiocese of Chicago:

- **Phase I** allows for parishes to reopen for Baptism, Reconciliation, Weddings, and Funerals with a limit of 10 attendees.
- **Phase IA** allows for parishes to reopen for private prayer and adoration with a limit of 10 attendees.
- **Phase II** allows for reopening for weekday and weekend Masses for larger groups depending on the guidelines from the state and the capacity of the church building.

Currently churches may focus on Phase I and Phase IA. Within this phased reopening plan the Archdiocese is providing strict guidelines, developed in collaboration with industry and healthcare experts. A parish must adhere to attendee guidelines, disinfecting protocols and sacramental procedures to receive the Archdiocese of Chicago certification. This certification is needed to be able to offer sacraments and private prayer at St. Raymond Parish.

Below is a brief summary to outline Phase 1 and 1A reopening potential for churches within the Archdiocese.

CURRENT GUIDELINES	PHASE 1 REOPENING GUIDELINES
Individual confessions are not possible. Weddings and baptisms are postponed. Funeral services take place only in funeral homes or at the graveside. The limit for attendees remains at 10.	Reopening Phase I Sacraments are able to be offered at the discretion of the parish under specific guidelines outlined by the Archdiocese of Chicago: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A strict limit of 10 attendees, wearing masks, and maintaining social distancing.• Proper cleaning and disinfecting of the area.• Priests should be under 65 and have no high health risk factors• Staff and volunteers should be under 65 and have no high health risk factors, whenever possible.

Adoration chapels or areas designated for private prayer must remain closed and locked.	<p style="text-align: center;">Reopening Phase IA</p> <p>Areas maybe designated for private prayer may open, under specific guidelines outlined by the Archdiocese of Chicago:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A strict limit of 10 attendees, wearing masks, and maintaining social distancing. • Proper cleaning and disinfecting of the area between visitors. • Staff and volunteers should be under 65 and have no high health risk factors, whenever possible.
<p>All churches must remain locked and masses may not be publicly celebrated.</p> <p>Outdoor liturgies may not be celebrated.</p> <p>No gatherings, meetings, or events may take place anywhere on Parish or school property.</p> <p>Anointing of the sick is available only for COVID-19 patients by priests who are under 65 years and designated to anoint by the Archdiocese of Chicago.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">No change. Current guidelines remain in effect.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">We will continue to Live Stream our Wednesday Mass at 9:00 a.m. and Sunday Mass at 11:00 a.m. weekly.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Please visit our website: www.st-raymond.org</p>

The health and safety of our parishioners remain our highest priority as we move forward in developing our St. Raymond Parish plan. The Archdiocese of Chicago requested to have parishes assemble a Leadership Team. The St. Raymond's Leadership Team has been created with both staff and parishioners. This team has attended the required training sessions last week, given by the Archdiocese of Chicago to further explain implementation of guidelines. The team has already begun to outline the tasks, action steps, and volunteer recruitment/training needed to complete the certification process, required by the Archdiocese, to be able to reopen for Phase I and Phase IA. This is quite an undertaking and I am grateful for all that they are doing to move the certification process forward.

While the team is working on this plan, we will not reopen until the leadership team, staff, and volunteers are confident in our ability to execute the plan to ensure the safety of all entering the facilities. We are moving as quickly as possible while ensuring that procedures are set in place to help mitigate the spread of the virus. Yet, it is important to note that currently Cook County still is a hot spot for cases and the situation "remains dangerous and fragile"¹. We cannot guarantee our efforts will ultimately prevent the spread of the virus. It will be up to each person to weigh the risks and required measures for your participation as you consider returning to partake in private prayer or the sacraments.

We are anticipating that we will be able to roll out our parish specific plan by Sunday, May 31, as the shelter-in-place order is lifted. Further information will be sent through email, posted on social media and available on the website (www.st-raymond.org). Also, the front office will be available to answer your calls office Monday-Friday at 847-253-8600 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. – noon.

All of us on Leadership Team thank you for your committed patience as together we navigate through the pandemic to bring you the opportunities to reenter the Church. On the Feast of Pentecost, may we continue to

¹ <https://www.archchicago.org/coronavirus/reopening>

focus the hope that Christ brings to each of us. May we remain committed and united through our prayers for one another, the Church, and the world.

Peace be with you,

Fr. Scott Hebden

Dean Hoppesch

Sharon Moeykens

Nick Pecci

Fr. Gilbert Mashurano

Kathy Nuelle

Lorelei McDermott