



Hello Holy Guardian Angels family,

I pray that you and your loved ones are healthy. The coronavirus has pushed us apart for over 3 months and we're all feeling it. We need to get back together. As you know, Cardinal Cupich recently shared a multi-phased plan for reopening churches in the Archdiocese of Chicago. Specifically,

- Phase I allows for parishes to reopen **for Baptism, Reconciliation, Weddings and Funerals**
- Phase IA allows for parishes to reopen for private prayer and adoration.
- Phase II allows for reopening for weekday and weekend Masses for larger groups.

Throughout all these Phases, people will be required to wear masks, use hand sanitizers and maintain 6 feet social distancing.

Our Holy Guardian Angels Reopening Plan

We must be careful. Although the number of cases and deaths are down (thank God), the virus is still out there sickening and killing people. For our own sake and that of others, we need to respect this pandemic. Our efforts will prioritize the safety and wellbeing of all while maintaining due respect and reverence for the sacraments and liturgical norms of our faith. To this end the Bishops of Illinois have chosen to follow all the recommendations of the State.

Bishop Hicks, the Vicar General of the Archdiocese, has strongly recommended that parishes with two worship sites open only one at the start. I have decided to open St. Barbara first. We will open St. Louise shortly after. Once we get the program down at St. Barbara of cleaning, schedule, volunteers needed, etc., we will use all the knowledge we've gained to then open St. Louise in a couple of weeks.

I have already assembled a Parish Reopening Leadership Team of parishioners, but still need co-captains to lead our efforts with the 3 Teams mentioned below. Together, we will attend required training from the Archdiocese to ensure that our parish reopening plan conforms to the guidelines developed by the Archdiocese in collaboration with civil and healthcare authorities.

Volunteers Needed

We will need volunteers to assist with various aspects of our parish reopening plan. Importantly, leadership team members (Captains) and volunteers must not be part of a "vulnerable population" (that

is, **not over the age of 65; no underlying medical condition such as diabetes; lung disease; undergoing cancer treatment, etc.**). I ask all of you who are younger than 65 and healthy with no underlying health conditions to consider assisting with one of three reopening teams:

- **Set-up team.** Sample duties include ensuring that all supplies needed for each sacramental celebration/gathering are ready for use, entrances and exits are marked and propped physically open prior to attendees' arrival/departure, windows are opened, etc.
- **Greeting team.** Sample duties include assisting in managing the flow of congregants as they enter the church, making sure attendees use hand sanitizer upon entering, are wearing a mask, and are reminded not to enter if ill; directing people to appropriate seating/waiting areas, etc.
- **Cleaning team.** Sample duties include maintaining and cleaning essential and trafficked areas of the church before and after the church has been used. Masks and gloves will be provided, if you do not have your own, in addition to approved cleaning/disinfecting supplies.

The Reopening Leadership Team and I will make sure that all volunteers are properly trained. Later today we will put a sign-up link on our website to "Sign-up Genius." Please use this link to indicate your willingness and ability to volunteer.

Timing for Our Reopening

As I mentioned, the Parish Reopening Leadership Team members and I will need to complete required training, which will take place as soon as possible. Once we complete the training, we will need to review and complete tasks assigned to all parishes as part of a reopening certification process to be approved by the Archdiocese. Then, we can enter Phase II.

As we know many people carry the coronavirus without even knowing it. This means that, despite our best efforts, there is **no guarantee** that we are safe from the virus when in church. We enter the church at our own risk.

The guidelines and measures required to reopen are designed to protect our wellbeing and that of our broader community. As Cardinal Cupich has noted, from the first pages of Scripture we learn that we indeed are "our brother's keeper." Our Lord Jesus Christ prayed, "that they all may be one" (Jn 17:21) and commanded us "love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another" (Jn 13:34). Our collective patience, willingness to help and the care we take to reopen is a demonstration of our unity and love for one another.

May God grant you His peace during this difficult time and may He manifest His love and presence to you in abundant ways. If you have any questions, please contact me at Holy Guardian Angels parish office in Brookfield.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Denis Condon