

Dear Parishioners,

I am pleased to inform you that St. Alphonsus & St. Patrick Parish is continuing with the church reopening process. On Wednesday, June 9th, we received the updated COVID-19 guidelines from the Archdiocese of Chicago regarding what will be taking place for the near future. While a number of guidelines have changed, some will still remain in place.

Phase 5 Reopening Guidelines:

- 1) Reservations for Mass are no longer required.
- 2) Fully vaccinated individuals are not required to wear masks. Proof of vaccination is not required.
- 3) We ask that those individuals who are not vaccinated to please wear a mask. It is recommended by public health authorities that unvaccinated people wear a mask indoors, particularly in crowded spaces such as our Church.
- 4) Per Center of Disease Control guidelines, children under 12 years old should continue to wear masks since they have not been approved for vaccinations.
- 5) Those who prefer to wear masks are welcome to do so in all sections of the church.
- 6) We will return to open seating within the church.
- 7) The exception will be for those who are more comfortable in a designated seating area where social distancing is still kept. There will be certain sections at both church sites reserved for those people who wish to observe social distancing. Please let a Greeter/Usher know if you'd like to be seated in this section.
- 8) For the distribution of Holy Communion, we will still have Ushers dismiss row by row. Hand sanitizer will be available at the Communion station.
- 9) We will return the Gather hymnals to the pews in the near future.

The following Guidelines will not change at this present time:

- 1) We will continue to sanitize both church sites after weekend & weekday Masses
- 2) Collection baskets will not be passed at this time. Please continue to deposit in the Offertory Box as you enter.
- 3) The Procession of the Gifts will not take place yet.
- 4) The Sign of Peace should be shared without physical contact.
- 5) There will be no distribution of the Precious Blood (cup).
- 6) At this time, no altar servers will be utilized during Mass.
- 7) For now, we will keep our current Mass Schedule. Daily Morning Mass will be celebrated at 7:30 a.m.. The Weekend Mass Schedule is: Saturday evening at 4:00 p.m. at St. Alphonsus and Sunday morning at 7:30 a.m. at St. Alphonsus, 9:00 a.m. at St. Patrick Church and 11:00 a.m. at St. Alphonsus.
- 8) We will continue to record Mass for those unable to join us at church and upload it to our parish website, Facebook page and YouTube channel for the near future.

I would like to publicly thank the volunteers who had dedicated their time, energy and patience to our church sites. We invite and encourage our parishioners to come back to Mass. Over the past few months, it has been wonderful to see those who have been attending various liturgies. We also realize that, because of safety concerns, many have not been able to join us. We are looking forward to seeing everyone back at both St. Alphonsus and St. Patrick Church sites and we pray for continued healing in the world!

Peace,
Fr. Brian