

Saint Zachary Church

Subject: Resumption of Public Masses at St. Zachary Church

Dear St. Zachary Parishioners,

I pray that you and your families are healthy and safe. As you may have seen, the Archdiocese of Chicago has permitted parishes to enter into Phase II of the reopening process, which allows for the public celebration of weekday and weekend Masses in our churches.

St. Zachary Church's Plan for Phase II

First and foremost, it is important for everyone to know that we are taking steps to keep our parishioners safe while still maintaining the respect and reverence that are due the sacraments and liturgical norms of our faith.

Our parish re-opening team has worked diligently to ensure that we can safely bring parishioners back into our church. Since we opened for private prayer at the end of May, we have followed guidelines set forth by the Archdiocese of Chicago. These guidelines were crafted with input from state and local health departments as well as from guidance from the CDC. Our team feels confident that we are ready to re-open for the public celebration of Masses.

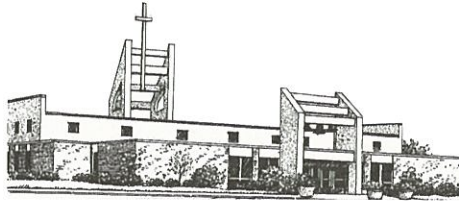
Timing for Our Reopening

We will resume the public celebration of daily Masses on **Monday, June 15**. Our first publicly-celebrated weekend Masses will be the weekend of **June 20/21**. In order to provide ample time to clean the church after each Mass, our Mass schedule for the time being is:

- **Weekday Masses (including Saturday mornings): 9:00 a.m.**
- **Saturday evening anticipated Masses:**
 - 3:00 p.m. in ENGLISH
 - 5:00 p.m. in POLISH
- **Sunday Masses:**
 - 7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., and 11:00 a.m. in ENGLISH
 - 1:00 p.m. in POLISH
- **Confession: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. and Wednesdays from 6:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.**

At this time, **we are permitted to allow no more than 50 congregants into the church for each Mass**. All people wishing to attend Mass/Confession will need to reserve their spot via Signup Genius. Links to sign up will be posted on the parish's website (www.saintzachary.org). Direct links to sign up on Signup Genius are:

- **For weekend Masses:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0a4ba4af2da7f49-stzachary>
- **For daily Masses:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0a4ba4af2da7f49-stzachary1>
- **For Confession:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0a4ba4af2da7f49-confession>



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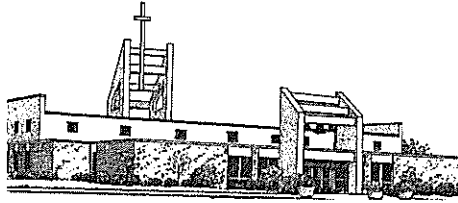
In order to enable St. Zachary's parishioners to attend Mass, registered parishioners will be given priority in reserving seats for Mass. Nonregistered parishioners will be put on a waiting list and will be given a seat should there be extra seats available. Please call the parish office should you wish to register as a parishioner.

Please do not hesitate to contact the parish office should you have any issues in reserving seats for Masses or confession. One of the members of our parish staff would be more than happy to assist you.

Masses will continue to be streamed and recorded for you to watch at home. These videos can be accessed via the parish's YouTube channel: [stzacharydp](https://www.youtube.com/channel/stzacharydp). They can also be accessed on the parish's website: www.saintzachary.org.

Requirements for attendance at Mass or Confession:

- **Each person attending Mass must sign up individually, including children.**
- **If you experience difficulties with signing up, please call the parish office for assistance.**
- **Preference will be given to registered parishioners.**
- **Nonregistered parishioners will be placed on a waiting list if necessary.**
- **No more than 50 congregants will be allowed into church.**
- **Please arrive at least 20 minutes before Mass.**
- **Masks must be worn in the building at all times.**
- **Your hands will be sanitized upon entry into the building.**
- **You will be seated by a greeter. You are not permitted to change seats.**
- **Please follow all instructions for entering and exiting the church.**
- **All pews and high-traffic areas will be cleaned after each Mass.**
- **If you have any symptoms of illness, out of respect for your fellow parishioners, please stay at home.**
- **Cardinal Cupich has lifted the faithful's obligation to attend public Mass until further notice.**
- **Masses will continue to be streamed online for the faithful.**



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Volunteers Needed

We are still in need of volunteers to facilitate the opening of the church for public Masses. We need volunteers for:

- 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. Please email Melissa Keefe at mkeefe@saintzachary.org to indicate your willingness and ability to volunteer.

The guidelines and measures required to reopen are designed to protect our wellbeing and that of the 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.

During this difficult time, I pray that you may feel God’s love for each of us. I thank God that we are again able to celebrate Mass together as a family. Please know that I pray for you daily, and I ask that you please pray for me. Please do not hesitate to contact the parish if there is anything we can do for you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Piotr Rapcia
Pastor