

Reopening Plan for St. Catherine Labouré Church Amid Covid-19

Hello, St. Catherine Labouré Family,

I pray that you and your loved ones are healthy. As you may have seen or heard, Cardinal Cupich recently shared our multi-phased plan for reopening churches in the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Specifically:

- Phase I allows for parishes to reopen for Baptisms, 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.

Our St. Catherine Labouré Reopening Plan

First and foremost, it is important for everyone to understand that 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.

I have assembled a Parish Reopening Leadership Team with parishioner co-captains to lead our efforts. The team and I have attended required training from the Archdiocese in collaboration with civil and healthcare authorities. We received a starter kit of protective and cleaning supplies, as well as guidance on purchasing/maintaining supplies ongoing.

Volunteers Needed

We need volunteers to assist with various aspects of our parish reopening plan. Importantly, leadership team members 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, ongoing cancer treatment, etc.). I ask all of you who are younger than 65 and healthy with no underlying health conditions to consider assisting on 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 masks, 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 cleaning/disinfecting supplies.

The Reopening Leadership Team and I will make sure that all volunteers are properly trained. Please send us a message at shirleydias2001@gmail.com, and cc businessmanager@stcatherinelaboure.com, pastor@stcatherinelaboure.com to indicate your willingness and ability to volunteer.

Timing for Our Reopening

As I mentioned, the Parish Reopening Leadership Team members and I have completed the required training. We also have reviewed and completed tasks assigned to all parishes as part of a reopening certification process to be approved by the Archdiocese. Therefore, our parish reopened for Phase I on May 30. We are able to celebrate Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, and Confessions with the restriction of 10 people at each service. The Reopening Leadership Team and I feel confident that we have all that is required in place to make it possible to reopen. Again, the need for parishioner assistance cannot be overstated.

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 pastor@stcatherinelaboure.com or 847-497-8133.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Isaac Lara