

Archdiocese of Baltimore
Guidelines for Responding to the COVID-19 Virus
May 22, 2020

To limit the amount of information being shared and to make this document as easy to read and helpful as possible, it will be limited to mostly updated/new information. Limited “repeat” information is included in italics. A comprehensive set of guidelines can be found at www.archbalt.org/coronavirus.

General

- A. As has been stated in prior guidance, while the Archdiocese is permitting parishes to reopen for public masses the weekend of May 30/31, the two conditions for doing so remain in effect (along with social distancing, limited attendance and other safety requirements):
- a. The local jurisdiction permits public masses of more than 10 people, and
 - b. The parish has completed the requisite items on the preparation checklist and has determined it is safe to hold public masses.

At the present moment only five counties are not restricting public masses of more than 10 people: Allegany, Carroll, Garrett, Harford, and Washington. Parishes located in all other jurisdictions located in the Archdiocese of Baltimore may only open for private prayer, baptisms, funerals and weddings with a limit of no more than 10 people including the priest and other ministers. As local jurisdictions change their policies, we will do our best to alert you. You may also check the status of your jurisdiction at <https://governor.maryland.gov/recovery/> (only jurisdictions in Status 1 on the chart are allowing public masses of more than 10 people).

- B. Parishes that are preparing to open the weekend of May 30/31 do not need to be prepared to open their entire campus to the public.
- C. We will be archiving these daily guidance documents going forward on the archdiocesan COVID-19 page at <https://www.archbalt.org/coronavirus-guidelines/>.
- D. In anticipation of the reopening of public masses in some of our parishes the weekend of May 30/31 we will be issuing several new videos to assist in preparing our parish communities, including one to parishioners, one to ushers, one to Eucharistic ministers, and one to pastors. We hope to post and forward links to the videos early next week.

Communication

- A. *Repeat information: A page on the archdiocesan website has been established where all pastoral resources will be kept: <https://www.archbalt.org/pastoralresources/>*
- B. *Repeat information: There is one central contact for the Archdiocese for all questions, concerns and reports involving the COVID-19 virus: riskmanagement@archbalt.org. As more information becomes available and as we learn of other questions or concerns more updates will be forthcoming. Updates will also be posted to <http://www.archbalt.org/coronavirus/>, where you can refer parishioners and others for the latest information and news.*