

Archdiocese of Baltimore
Guidelines for Responding to the COVID-19 Virus
May 26, 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. Be sure to check regularly on the status of your local jurisdiction’s guidance before proceeding with reopening your parish to ensure you are in compliance, since these policies continue to change frequently. You may 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) and more specific guidance at www.mdcountries.org/366/COVID-19-Resource-Page. Baltimore City’s guidance may be found at <https://coronavirus.baltimorecity.gov/>.
- B. Please be sure to review the updated guidance that has been issued regarding applications for PPP loan forgiveness – **see attached**.
- C. Archbishop Lori has recorded four separate video messages in anticipation of reopening for parishioners, Eucharistic ministers, ushers, and pastors and parish staff. Please feel free to post the message to parishioners on your websites or through social media and to include the links in your flocknotes, email, bulletins or other avenues. Please also disseminate the other videos to the appropriate groups.
 - a. Reopening Our Parishes: A Message from Archbishop Lori to Parishioners: <https://youtu.be/cqFhDP3Gx4w>
 - b. Reopening Our Parishes: A Message from Archbishop Lori to Eucharistic Ministers <https://youtu.be/MFBsMg2vNkM>
 - c. Reopening Our Parishes: A Message from Archbishop Lori to Ushers: https://youtu.be/yRi_dskonSo
 - d. Reopening Our Parishes: A Message from Archbishop Lori to Pastors and Parish Staff: <https://youtu.be/9HCOKxvqwgS>
- D. The Archdiocese of Baltimore and myParish app received permission from the USCCB to create a digital worship aid – including the readings – in the app for each Sunday through the end of the liturgical year (Nov. 22, 2020). This will help parishes enable a “hymnal-free Mass” and will be updated weekly. In your messages to parishioners, please encourage them to download the app (<https://myparishapp.com/>) – available on Apple iOS and Google Android – and bring their smartphone to Mass. This can be a useful tool for those who come to church or continue to watch Mass online, since the readings and prayers are all in one place in the app.
- E. Catholic Review Media has prepared facemasks with the Archdiocese of Baltimore crest. Each priest in parish ministry will receive one mask as a gift from the Catholic Review.

Additional masks for staff, ushers, extraordinary ministers of holy Communion or other liturgical ministers are available at bitly.com/AOBMask. The cost to the public is \$11 each plus shipping, but will be \$9 each for parishes, plus shipping. Use promo code PARISH2020 for a \$2 discount on each mask.

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 <https://www.archbalt.org/coronavirus/>, where you can refer parishioners and others for the latest information and news.*