

Archdiocese of Baltimore
Guidelines for Responding to the COVID-19 Virus
May 29, 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. Based on several recent announcements, additional counties will *allow* churches to reopen at varying capacities. As of today, Anne Arundel, Howard and Baltimore City are the only jurisdictions that have not yet lifted restrictions on indoor public masses for more than 10 people. Please keep in mind that parishes are not *required* to open if they are not prepared to do so, and should follow archdiocesan protocols of maintaining a limit of 1/3 seating capacity even if local jurisdictions permit a larger capacity.
- B. Parishes that do open for public masses this weekend are asked to send a brief report on their experience to their regional vicars by this Wednesday, June 3. This will be very helpful in developing further guidance going forward.
- C. Pastors are encouraged to continue to keep their parish communities updated on a weekly basis about the reopening process and how it is evolving to assist parishioners in knowing what to expect when they return to Mass. Sharing pictures or videos of a Mass where they are resuming may be helpful.
- D. Spanish translations of the reopening graphics we sent yesterday are **attached**.

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.*