

## **Reopening Plan for St. Augustine Church amid COVID-19**

Dear Parish Family of St. Augustine,

Bishop Braxton, together with Cardinal Cupich and the Bishops of Illinois, have shared their multi-phased plan for the gradual re-opening of churches throughout the State of Illinois.

To begin with, every effort will be made to insure that such “re-opening” is SAFE.

For this purpose, I have had a meeting with Deacon Gerry and Deacon Jim, Mary and Sandy in the Office along with Paula Sobol from the Pastoral Council to study the Directives from the Bishop.

Such directives call for the Formation of a Leadership Team with the eventual need for volunteers who are not “vulnerable” [under the age of 65, no underlying health issues like diabetes, lung disease, undergoing cancer treatment, etc.] to form the following: Set up Team; Greeting Team; Cleaning Team. All of those involved will have to view a “training webinar” from the Diocese which has only become available online as of Friday May 22. Keep in mind that we will need volunteer help from the parish...a letter next week will explain more about what being a “volunteer” for these teams will require.

If you are thinking that this will be a slow, complex process, you are correct.

Phase 1 of this process calls for churches to re-open **ONLY** for Baptisms, Weddings, Reconciliation and Funerals with a limit of 10 attendees. Phase 1A allows parishes to re-open for private prayer with limit of 10 attendees. **NOTICE THESE PHASES DO NOT ALLOW FOR PUBLIC MASSES OR MASSES WITH ANY SIZE ATTENDANCE. THAT WOULD BE PHASE 2 TO COME AT AN UNKNOWN FUTURE DATE.**

So, to begin with, a reliable source for cleaning materials will be needed which will be put in place through the Parish Office. Formation of the Leadership Team, and the other Teams mentioned will need to be accomplished, which is being worked on. All of these steps would lead eventually to the opening of St. Augustine’s for Baptisms, Weddings, Reconciliation, and Funerals with a limit of 10 attendees hopefully the week-end of May 30. Opening for private prayer with a limit of 10 attendees would come “when ready.”

I would ask for your prayers, and your patience, through this time.

More information will be shared as soon as it is available.

God bless you!  
Fr. Bill