



Diocese of Springfield in Illinois

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Office for Legal Services and Policy Development

Dear Parish Response Team,

In his email to Priests on May 28, 2020, Bishop Paprocki announced that he was “granting permission for parishes that have been certified to celebrate public Masses with attendance up to 25% of the church’s capacity while maintaining appropriate safe distancing, starting the weekend of Trinity Sunday, June 6 and 7.”

This certification process consists of each pastor or parochial administrator appointing and coordinating a Parish Response Team. Your designated parish team must be trained for the task of reopening the Mass to the public and put at ease parishioner concerns. Your designated parish team must attend a training webinar online either during the live broadcast or via the recording. All parish staff and leaders critical to this planning effort are required to attend.

The parish must also submit the Parish Readiness Report, which is designed as a checklist of required actions that parish teams need to complete, consider, and submit to the Public Mass Reopening Task Force in order to reopen the public Mass.

This letter confirms that you have submitted your Parish Readiness Report and that you have affirmed 1) that your parish staff and leaders critical to this reopening effort have attended/watched the training webinar, 2) that your parish staff and leaders critical to this planning effort have reviewed the materials at <https://www.dio.org/parishreopeningplan>, and 3) that your team understands and is prepared to execute the training and guidelines for each celebration of the Mass or other service.

As such, YOUR PARISH IS CERTIFIED TO REOPEN AND YOU HAVE BISHOP PAPROCKI’S CONSENT TO RESUME THE PUBLIC MASS PURSUANT TO THE GUIDELINES AND YOUR AFFIRMATIONS.

Your obligations under the training and guidelines are continuing, and your team should periodically review any updates, as well as periodically review your parish plan and the implementation of the same to ensure compliance. That said, it is my great joy and honor to be able to convey Bishop Paprocki’s consent to your parish and to return to Mass with you my brothers and sisters in the Lord. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Yours in Christ,

James A. Bock Jr
Director, Office for Legal Services and Policy Development