

ST. GILBERT PARISH



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I'm very pleased to deliver news we've been waiting many long pandemic months to receive: Restore Illinois is moving into Phase 5 of reopening which means all COVID related restrictions placed on parishes and schools in the archdiocese are lifted, effective immediately. Normal activities can resume at our parish and school without hindrance or reservation. Following are some details regarding reopening at St Gilbert.

Capacity

- All capacity restrictions are lifted.
- Masses, liturgies, sacramental celebrations, parish and school events and all offices may resume 100% capacity.

Physical Distancing

- Physical distancing is NOT required for vaccinated persons.
- Physical distancing is recommended by public health authorities, when possible, for unvaccinated persons if conditions allow up to 6 feet of separation.

Masks

- Masks are NOT required for vaccinated persons.
- Masks are recommended by public health authorities for unvaccinated persons indoors.

Hand Sanitizing

- Hand sanitizer should remain readily available in churches, schools and offices.

Masses and Liturgies

- All forms of sacramental and liturgical ministry may resume normal practice.
- **Reservations and registration are no longer required.**
- Proof of vaccination is not required for attendance at any liturgies or services.
- Holy Water fonts may be filled and used.
- Ushers may resume their pre-pandemic routine; registration greeters can be redirected to support the hospitality team in welcoming everyone returning to in-person worship and into the parish community.
- Choirs, congregational singing, spoken responses, use of songbooks and worship materials may be fully resumed.
- The Sign of Peace may be restored.
- Receiving Holy Communion in the hand no longer requires extra hand sanitizing on the part of the Communicant.
- Receiving Holy Communion from the cup remains suspended at this time. The archdiocese will communicate when sharing of the cup may resume.

Social Gatherings

- All social gatherings may resume while incorporating the guidance on masks and physical distancing noted above.

We are most grateful to our staff and all the faithful volunteers who worked hard to create an environment in the church, school and chapel that's clean and sanitary, for everyone's protection. Thanks for all you've done!

Now it's time to welcome all our parishioners, friends and guests back to weekend Mass and other parish and school activities, after a long time away. We've certainly missed you and have been praying for you, and are delighted to see so many already returning. You can feel safe and confident coming to church or chapel for in-person Masses and services; however for those who aren't able to join us we'll continue live-streaming weekend and daily Masses and other liturgies from both church and chapel, on our YouTube and Facebook Live channels. This is thanks to the efforts and expertise of our Deacons Tom and Brian and their collaborators.

Thank you for your ongoing gracious and prayerful support of the ministries and mission of St Gilbert Parish, and enjoy a safe and restful summer.

Peace of Christ,
Fr John Chrzan, Fr Christian Shiu & Fr Gus Belauskas