



DIVINE MERCY PARISH

SACRED HEART CHURCH · ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE CHURCH

REOPENING FOR CONFESSIONS, BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS

Updated: June 8, 2020

We are happy to announce that we have been officially certified by the Archdiocese of Chicago to begin Phases 1 and 1A of the gradual reopening of the two churches of Divine Mercy Parish. The following sets forth the specifics for each phase.

Phase 1

Both worship sites of Divine Mercy Parish will be open for **Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals** with attendees limited to **fifty** persons, beginning Saturday, **June 13th**. If you would like to arrange for one of these liturgies, please contact the parish office at our temporary office number: 847-881-6664. All attendees of these liturgies will be required to wear a face mask, and comply with procedures that will be discussed during the planning stages, and then implemented once attendees enter either church. Upon entering either church, attendees will be greeted by a member of our Reopening Team, who will guide them to the appropriate places inside the church.

The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** will also be offered by the priests of Divine Mercy beginning Saturday, May 30th at Sacred Heart Church and Wednesday, June 3rd at St. Philip the Apostle Church. The Archdiocesan guidelines prevent the use of confessionals, so a reconciliation "station" will be set up towards the front of each church. The priest will be seated behind a screen placed six feet away from the seat reserved for the penitent. Penitents will be greeted by a member of our Reopening Team at a designated door (see below) and guided to the appropriate place inside the church, socially distanced from other penitents.

There are only 10 penitents allowed inside the church at a time. Once ten people have entered the church, our Reopening Team members will only admit the next person once someone exits the church. Once a penitent receives the Sacrament, they are asked to immediately exit and complete their penance outside of the church. Given the 10 person limit inside the church, we need to keep the flow of penitents moving, so that all who desire to receive the Sacrament are able to do so.

Note: All parishioners must wear a face-mask in order to enter either church. If you are feeling sick or showing any flu-like symptoms, we encourage you to stay at home for your own health and safety, as well as the health and safety of others inside the church. Note that the chair in which penitents sit will be thoroughly disinfected after it has been vacated.

Time and Location Specifics

Sacred Heart Church will offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturday mornings from **9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.** The final penitent will be admitted to the church at 9:50 a.m. Please enter the Church via the parking lot door. A greeter will meet you and give you further instructions.

St. Philip the Apostle Church will offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Wednesday afternoons from **3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.** The final penitent will be admitted to the church at 3:50 p.m. Please enter the Church via the front center doors. A greeter will meet you and give you further instructions as you arrive.

Phase 1A

We plan to open the churches for private prayer and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament as soon as possible. Stay tuned for further information.

Should you have any questions regarding this information, please reply to this email or call our temporary office number at 847-881-6664.

The Priests and Staff of Divine Mercy Parish