

CLARIFICATION ON OPENING OF THE CHURCH

I know so many who listened to Cardinal Dolan are excited that a plan is in place for opening our churches across the Archdiocese of New York. There are many details that must be addressed, and I wanted to reach out to you to explain further.

Each church will be re-opening individually. It will not be an “all at once” event. We have received guidelines from the Archdiocese which includes 4 Phases of Reopening. We will receive more information from the Vicar General in the upcoming weeks.

There are safety protocols which must be followed. Each parish must purchase the required PPE, sanitizers, etc. prior to progressing through the phases. Planning for seating must be put into place as well. Once we can start having Masses, we will only be allowed up to 25% capacity. Pews must be marked for individual, couple & family seating. Distance tape must be placed on the floors throughout the churches. And there is so much more that must be accomplished prior to reopening.

Phase 1 includes having the church open for private prayer as well as confessions. The Chapel at St. Mary of the Snow is open 24/7 and has been throughout the pandemic. The churches will remain locked. I have heard private confessions and will continue to do so. You just have to call and schedule a time.

We will keep you informed as we move through the phases. We are not at a point to reschedule baptisms or offer any other sacraments or funeral masses currently. Please try to be patient as we navigate through new and unknown territory. The health and safety of all is our top priority.

Keep the faith. Keep praying. Be patient. Be safe. Be well.

Fr. Chris