



saint patrick's Basilica, montréal

Covid-19
Deconfinement Plan
June 2020

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In this document we will attempt to clearly outline the procedures and protocols that the Parish of Saint Patrick will implement in order to protect the health and safety of its parishioners, volunteers, staff and priests from exposure to the Corona Virus, Covid-19.

We will address the phases for re-opening as suggested by the Archdiocese:

Phase I: *Opening church doors for individual, personal prayer*

At Saint Patrick's, before the pandemic, our doors were open all day, every day and that is our goal. In our case because of our situation with regard security, staffing and the ability to safely control and sanitize such a large space this will happen in Phase IV.

Phase II: *Events held in camera*

A decision has been made, based on the age and medical condition of our two priests, to postpone all liturgical and pastoral activities until September.

Phase III: *Open events, with restricted access*

We hope to offer Daily Mass beginning on Monday June 29 at 12:10, and Weekend Masses; Saturday July 4 at 5p.m., Sunday July 5 at 9a.m., 11a.m. and 5p.m. Opening the Basilica one half hour before and closing immediately after the Mass.

These are the measures we have implemented:

1. Preparing the Premise

- The Basilica has been thoroughly cleaned.
- All hymnals, prayer cards and envelopes have been removed from the pews
- The Holy water fonts have been emptied
- The Vigil light stands have been removed
- Hand sanitizer is in place
- Signage will be provided
- Seating is clearly defined and surprisingly limited because our pews are spaced closely together and divided in half. Respecting guidelines for distancing, we have 45 pews available
- We have used Painter's Tape to block access to pews and different sections of the Basilica.
- Those attending Mass will be educated on safety

2. MATERIAL RESOURCES

- We have a supply of disinfectant wipes
- We will have signage but no handouts
- We have a good supply of marking materials
- We have gloves
- We have masks both disposable and cloth
- We are using a mixture of vinegar and water to sanitize any wood (pews etc.) in our Basilica. This method is recommended for heritage buildings.

3. INSTRUCTIONS FOR VISITING

- Weekday Masses will be on a first come first seated basis with the total including priest and staff of 50.
- Weekend Masses will be a combination of reservations and tickets.

- Basilica staff will be on duty during the week to welcome then question (do you have a fever, cough...) and direct (please use the hand sanitizer) those entering the Basilica for Mass.
- Collection boxes are located at the hand sanitizer station. There will be no collection during Mass
- Fr. Robert has organized a team of young adults to act as greeters and ushers during the weekend services. They will help sanitize high touch areas of the Basilica between Masses.
- All Basilica staff and volunteers will wear masks and those attending Saint Patrick's will be encouraged for the sake of others to wear one as well.
- The organist and cantor will be present at each Mass. The choir loft is a great distance from the seating area in the Basilica.
- Eucharist will be distributed to parishioners at their pew.
- Once seated parishioners will not leave their pew until Mass has ended.
- Beside instruction at the door, signage and direction signs, the celebrant and/or commentator will be giving instruction as well.

4. PROCEDURES IN THE SANCTUARY AND SACRISTY

- All safety and distancing procedures will be carefully implemented
- The Sacristan is fully aware of his role with regard to cleaning and sanitizing.

5. STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

- Will be educated on all aspects of Covid-19 procedures
- They will not come to work if they display any sign of illness or have been exposed to the virus.

We feel that we are well prepared to open our doors for a limited time and for a limited group of people on June 29. We are willing to evolve to accommodate any new directives that come our way and also to adjust procedures that are not working smoothly.

We hope that this will satisfy your requirements for authorization and that we may go ahead with our re-opening as outlined in the previous pages as planned.

As pastor of St. Patrick's Basilica I want to thank all those who worked so diligently on the deconfinement process. May the Lord continue to guide us all during this unprecedented time. May we look forward to the joy of the many celebrations with the People of God to come,



Msgr. Francis John Coyle, Pastor