



ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS
Office of Communications and Planning

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**Archbishop Robert J. Carlson Grants General Permission to Resume
Public Masses Beginning May 18**

The Decision to Begin Holding Public Mass is at the Discretion of Each Parish Pastor

The Most Reverend Robert J. Carlson, Archbishop of St. Louis, has announced that parishes in the Archdiocese of St. Louis are permitted to begin resuming public Masses on Monday, May 18, at the discretion of each individual parish pastor. This decision, along with the accompanying policy and guidelines that will be provided to all parishes early next week, follows much work and consultation with the archdiocesan Presbyteral Council, the Missouri bishops and civil authorities. That collaboration will continue through May 18 and beyond, with decisions subject to change based on any new data provided by health officials.

The general dispensation from the Sunday Mass obligation will remain in place for all Catholics of the archdiocese until further notice, as many individuals continue to have concerns for the health and safety of themselves and their loved ones.

“I am filled with the joy of this Easter season to be able to once again reunite our faithful in the celebration of public Masses, centered around the Eucharist given to us by our Lord Jesus Christ. I am grateful to our priests, deacons and all parish staffs for working closely with me and archdiocesan leadership to continue to guide parish communities in their faith journeys, while prudently following all protocols to keep God’s people safe and healthy.”

- **Most Reverend Robert J. Carlson**
Archbishop of St. Louis

The detailed policy will be provided to parishes early next week, and will include directives and guidelines that must be followed carefully by each parish in order to resume public Masses. To assist parishes in adhering to this policy, thanks to the support of a grant from the [Annual Catholic Appeal of the Archdiocese of St. Louis](#), the archdiocesan leadership team is also providing many parishes with sanitation, hygiene and personal protective equipment supplies.

All parishes are encouraged to continue live-streaming Masses so that the faithful who are not able to attend in person may participate in the celebration remotely. Live-stream schedules can continue to be found at [archstl.org/coronavirus](https://www.archstl.org/coronavirus), as well as via individual parish websites and social media channels.

Further announcements will be shared as developments occur.

All updates and resources from the Archdiocese of St. Louis regarding COVID-19, including stories from the *St. Louis Review*, can be found at [archstl.org/coronavirus](https://www.archstl.org/coronavirus). Please direct questions to communications@archstl.org.

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