

**Subject: Reopening Update for St. Stephen King of Hungary Church**

Hello St. Stephen King of Hungary Church family,

As our parish continues to move forward with reopening efforts in accordance with the plan announced by Cardinal Cupich and the bishops of Illinois, as well as the governor's Restore Illinois plan, I want to provide you with an update on our progress and priorities.

We are approved to resume public Masses, which will begin **Sunday, June 21st**. Given the current restrictions on attendance (up to 20% capacity of our church), we are using SignUpGenius, an online tool that allows you to reserve space for you and those in your household for Mass.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094FACAB2DAAF94-10am>

Those who are not able to register online, please call Marika Katona at 773-704-5050.

It is important that you reference the Parishioner Reopening Guide so that you are aware of the precautionary measures in place for your safety and all those in our St. Stephen King of Hungary Church. You will see that there are some expectations of everyone prior to arriving for Mass, during our celebration and upon exiting the church. To help ensure that everything runs as smoothly and peacefully as possible, please review the Guidelines

(<http://stephenchurch.org/SacramentalGuidelinesforReopening.pdf>) and contact us with any questions ahead of time at jemfromwales@icloud.com / # 773-368-2566. For those who are not able to return to Mass or are not yet comfortable joining us in person, be assured of our prayers for you. We are one family in faith and no matter how long it takes until you are able to worship in person with us, we hope that you will connect with us in other ways

- Please arrive not sooner than 15 minutes before the Mass.
- Please have everyone check their temperature at home, any parishioner who is ill or having symptoms of illness should not enter the church.
- It is recommended that everyone bring hand sanitizer
- Everyone is required to wear masks at all times inside the church
- People that are classified as "vulnerable population" are encouraged to stay home
- Upon entering the church, a greeter will spray sanitizer on everyone's hands
- Movement in the church is limited and restricted - people shall be guided to their seats by an usher and asked to remain there.
- Physical distancing measures are in-effect and people not from the same household will be asked to stay at required distances



- No collection will be taken during the Mass, donations will be placed in a designated box after Mass..
- Fr. Jeremy will be wearing a face shield during communion, as required by the Archdiocese.
- Holy Communion is to be distributed only in the hand, with the priest sanitizing his hands immediately before and immediately after distributing Communion.
- Each communicant is to sanitize his/her hands before receiving Communion. Do not move forward to the priest to receive the Host until you have vigorously rubbed the sanitizer on your hands and the sanitizer has dried on your hands.
- After Mass, everyone will be asked to follow the exit path shown by ushers - unfortunately, we can not allow people to congregate, either in the church or in the Elisabeth Hall.

Your Help is Needed

The Reopening Co-leadership Team and our Volunteer Captains need additional people to step forward and serve in various capacities so that our community may begin to pray, celebrate and worship together. In order to progress along our parish reopening plan, our Set-up, Greeting and Cleaning Teams need folks who can offer 45 min - 1 hr. Please prayerfully consider lending your time to this important ministry and contact Fr. Jeremy Thomas, jemfromwales@icloud.com / # 773-368-2566, to note your willingness to help. Our team will ensure that you are properly trained and can serve with your safety as priority #1.

Additionally, our St. Stephen King of Hungary Church needs your financial support. As a community of believers, we can only sustain our ministries and outreach with your generosity and regular contributions.

God will work something new from the challenges we are currently facing. It is clear to me the need for community – and within that word, unity – is being expressed in powerful ways. It is my fervent hope that we, as disciples of Jesus Christ, will embrace this moment to begin witness to our faith in new ways, to share with one another our stories of faith and invite others into an encounter with the Risen Lord.

May God grant you His peace during this difficult time and may He manifest His love and presence to you in abundant ways. If you have any questions, please contact me at jemfromwales@icloud.com / # 773-368-2566

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Jeremy Thomas