



# SAINT BRIGID ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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May 22, 2021

*Memorial of Saint Rita of Cascia, religious*

Dear Parishioners,

As we all know, New York City is now officially open. Following recommendations from the CDC, lower rates of infection, and higher numbers of people being vaccinated against COVID-19, our City, and our State have relaxed many of the restrictions which were in place. Bishop DiMarzio also released guidelines this week, loosening many of the restrictions in our churches and announcing that effective this weekend, May 22-23, all Catholic churches throughout Brooklyn and Queens can return to full capacity. Just a few notes about how this will affect us here at Saint Brigid:

1. Since churches may now open to full 100% Capacity, you will notice that the pews will no longer be roped off, and all social distancing markings have been removed. Please note that social distancing is still required for those who are not vaccinated. Unvaccinated parishioners should distance themselves from others who are not members of the same household.
2. Hand sanitizer will continue to be available at the doors of the church, and we ask you to continue using it when you come into church.
3. For those who are not vaccinated, masks are still mandatory in church. However, everyone is strongly encouraged to wear masks while in church.
4. Even though the CDC has removed the obligation, our Parish will continue disinfecting the church daily. Everyone's safety and well-being continue to be a priority.
5. The dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass which has been in effect since the start of the pandemic, will be lifted as of the weekend of June 5-6, the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of the Lord (Corpus Christi). Although the dispensation will be lifted, those who are ill or feeling unwell, those who care for the sick, and those truly at risk are automatically dispensed from the obligation, as is always the case. That being said, the obligation to attend Holy Mass on Sunday is a sacred one that must be taken seriously. Attending Sunday Mass should not be a chore for us or even something we do because it is an obligation. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the greatest gift that Our Lord has given to us — it is the most powerful and most important prayer we have. The saints tell us that the Mass is the moment where heaven meets earth; it is a supernatural moment in which we are truly in the Lord's presence and where we are privileged to re-live the His passion, death, and Resurrection. At Holy Mass, the Lord nurtures us with His Holy Word and with his real presence in Holy Communion. It is an honor to participate in the Mass and to have the opportunity to give thanks and praise to our heavenly father for the many blessings he bestows on us. More than an obligation, it is a remarkable opportunity — one we should never want to miss.
6. For now, we will continue live-streaming Masses every day. For many weeks now, the number of viewers has been dropping as more people have returned to Mass in person. For this reason, we plan to discontinue the streaming of Daily Mass eventually. At the same time, the service provided by the live streams of Masses has proven to be a blessing for many people, so we will continue streaming the 9:00am and 11:00am Masses on Sundays and other special occasions.

Let us continue taking all the necessary precautions to ensure that we remain safe and healthy as life begins going back to normal.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Carlos C. Velásquez  
Pastor