



Come Holy Spirit, Fill and Renew us!
Guidelines for welcoming people back to our parishes

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How should parishes plan for Faith Formation in the fall?

A: Parishes should generally follow the schedule of the public schools in their area regarding in-person class or formation gatherings this fall as well as seeking input from the families in your community. The Office of Formation & Discipleship has put together some recommendations on planning ahead which can be found here. (<https://archatl.com/come-holy-spirit-fill-and-renew-us/families-forming-disciples/planning-ahead/>)

Q: What about Summer Faith Formation programs such as Vacation Bible School, camps or in-person activities or youth gatherings?

A: For now, summer faith formation activities should remain virtual, with family involvement encouraged. The archdiocese will issue new guidance as the situation continues to evolve. The Office of Formation & Discipleship has resources for these programs as well (<https://archatl.com/come-holy-spirit-fill-and-renew-us/families-forming-disciples/digital-content-for-formation-at-home/>). Email Michele McHale-Pickard mmchale-pickard@archatl.com for more information.

Various summer camps have cancelled or postponed summer activities. For any parishes still considering participation in camps later in the summer, please monitor any updated announcements from camps or new guidelines offered. If it becomes possible to participate in camps later in the summer, parishes should ensure that camps are following all protocols according to federal, state and local guidelines, including public health recommendations. Families should also be consulted, with the pastor making the final decision about possible parish involvement. The archdiocese will issue new guidance if necessary.

Q: Will Confirmation of young people have specific health restrictions and guidelines?

A: It is too soon to know. The bishops are still working on a plan to schedule these liturgies. Safety restrictions will be considered based on the guidance of healthcare officials at the time of the Confirmations. The Archdiocese will directly contact all parishes who had to postpone confirmations.

Q: What guidelines are we using for masks? Is there a minimum age for masks?

Commented [ALPI]: This was a previous question we had received some weeks ago. The question about Summer Faith Formation reminded me of it. Took a stab at a draft answer. I know Life Teen has developed a comprehensive set of protocol. They've cancelled through June 22 but should be announcing an update soon. We need to be mindful that Life Teen operates two camps here in GA. We don't want to unnecessarily restrict their decisions.

Children over than the age of reason (seven and older) will be expected to wear a mask. The obligation to attend Mass remains dispensed until the end of June, so those who cannot wear a mask, especially those with breathing issues, do not need to return to church.

Are masks required for outdoor liturgies?

A: The archdiocese will not require masks for outdoor liturgies, but each pastor can make his own determination in his community.

Q: Is the Archdiocese of Atlanta providing a reservation system for parishes?

No, but attached you will find a sample of how one parish in Florida uses the Eventbrite software and here is a link to a list of other reservation systems parishes can consider. Each parish will have different space and needs so each will have to determine which software is best for their situation.

<https://sourceforge.net/software/product/SignUpGenius/alternatives>.

(Sample from Florida will be attached)