



ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS  
Office of Communications and Planning

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Archbishop Robert J. Carlson Extends the  
Suspension of Public Mass Through May 8**

The Most Reverend Robert J. Carlson, Archbishop of St. Louis, has announced the extension of the suspension of public Mass for all archdiocesan parishes through May 8. An announcement regarding a general permission to return to public Mass, including the date on which the Archdiocese of St. Louis may return to public Masses, will be announced at a later date. Public Mass is not to be celebrated within the Archdiocese of St. Louis until a general permission is provided by Archbishop Carlson. The general dispensation from the Sunday Mass obligation will remain in place for all Catholics of the archdiocese.

Archbishop Carlson is working with the other Missouri bishops, the governor of Missouri, the mayor of St. Louis and other local officials to implement a policy for the return to public Mass. This policy will include guidelines for parishes and will adhere to the CDC guidelines for religious organizations, which are expected from the federal government later this week.

***“I look forward to sharing a date soon for the resumption of public Mass across the Archdiocese of St. Louis, and once again reuniting our faithful in the celebration of the Eucharist given to us by our Lord Jesus Christ. It is important at this time for us to walk prudently with the Lord in making this decision, ensuring the proper protocols are in place and that support is available to our parishes in creating a safe environment for God’s people to worship.”***

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

Given the restrictions on public gatherings included within Governor Parsons’ directive to re-open the state of Missouri on May 3, in addition to the extension of public Mass suspension, Archbishop Carlson’s directive also prohibits all public gatherings at parishes within the Archdiocese of St. Louis. Additional updates will be announced 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](http://archstl.org/coronavirus). Please direct questions to [communications@archstl.org](mailto:communications@archstl.org).

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