

Script / Talking Points to Encourage Continued Offertory During Church Re-Opening

1. This has been an incredibly difficult time. We are thinking about you and praying for your health, safety, and stability every day.
2. I am sure you have heard by now that Churches in the Diocese of Cleveland will re-open for public worship the week of May 30-31, with daily Mass available on _____.
3. I want to share a few thoughts about how things will be different when we can gather together again so you know what you can expect.
4. A few important points and guidelines to keep in mind as we re-open:
 - a. We plan to move cautiously and follow the guidelines and recommendations set out for us. This is a critical time to ensure our parishioners stay safe.
 - b. We are required to have no more than 50% occupancy in the Church at any one time. If you do feel comfortable coming to Mass, please take your temperature before you come. Wear a mask when you arrive. Please also respect social distancing guidance – stay six feet apart.
 - c. If you are ill, in a high-risk category, or are still not comfortable being in a public setting, I strongly urge you to stay at home. Please know that the obligation to attend Mass continues to be dispensed.
 - d. *[If parish is livestreaming Mass]* We will continue to livestream Mass for those who are not ready to join us in person. You can join us online via *[note livestreaming platform]*.
 - e. We are thinking about you and praying for your health, safety, and stability every day and we hope these measures will ensure you and your family remain safe.
5. I want to take a moment to let you know that amid this time of careful transition, your support remains critical for our parish and our community as we face financial shortfalls brought on by the impact of COVID-19.
6. We will not pass an offertory basket as we did before, but you can support the parish in one of a few ways:
 - a. Drop off an envelope at the *[parish/rectory/office]* at *[address]*;
 - b. Bring an envelope to Mass and leave it in the designated box, located in *[location]*;
 - c. Of course, you can also easily support our parish ONLINE through our parish website and/or going to the Diocese of Cleveland's Universal Offertory Page *[provide links or instructions on how to get to it]*.
7. We do not know what the future holds, but with the support from our community, we will keep this Church as a place of worship and fellowship for generations to come.

8. We thank all those who played a role in this effort through action and prayer, and once again are reminder of the love, support, and strength of our church.
9. I want to emphasize that your support, provided through offertory, is vital to the short- and long-term financial security of our Church.
10. While we pray that each of you and your families are weathering this experience with little impact, we recognize that some members of the parish may have more significantly felt the effects of COVID.
11. If you can make a gift to the parish or continue supporting the parish as you have, we ask that you do so in honor of those unable to at this time.
12. If you are unable to support the parish at this time, please know you are loved and we are with you.