



Parish Building Readiness

Use of Air Conditioning and Fans

The introduction of fresh air into enclosed spaces is recommended to help improve air quality and reduce the likelihood of the spread of the coronavirus. As the weather warms up, it is natural to want to use fans and turn on air conditioning systems. Both systems are acceptable to use in conjunction with proper social distancing practices. However, we recommend certain additional precautions.

- Fans can be used to bring fresh air into a space. The most effective method is to place fans in windows and/or doors and aim them outward, while leaving doors/windows open in other areas of the room. This will allow the fans to exhaust stale warm air from the room while bringing in fresh air at a controllable rate. Fans should not be pointed into the room nor directly at parishioners, which would cause much greater airflow between parishioners and minimize the benefits of social distancing.
- Air conditioning can and should be used when available to help bring fresh air into worship spaces and reduce humidity levels. Fresh air dampers should be opened fully to allow the systems to pull in the maximum level of fresh air. The dampers are generally part of the primary air conditioning system, located in the mechanical room. If there is any concern regarding making these adjustments, please contact your primary HVAC contractor or contact Heather AnCel, in the Archdiocese Planning and Construction Department, at hancel@archchicago.org.