NOTRE DAME DE PARIS

RETROUVONS NOTRE-DAME DE PARIS

Press kit
Press conference, 13 November 2024

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With just one month to go before the reopening of Notre-Dame de Paris, we stand at the literal threshold of the cathedral! The moment we have all been waiting for, our reunion with our cathedral, is almost palpable, as the many visitors who have flocked to the forecourt in recent days have noticed.

Through the voice of its archbishop, the entire Church of Paris expresses its joy, impatience, gratitude, strong sense of responsibility, and fervent desire that the upcoming reopening of Notre-Dame de Paris will be a period of communion for all.

Joy, because we are on the cusp of returning to the focal point of our diocesan life. Notre-Dame de Paris is the shared home where everyone, and above all, the smallest and poorest among us, find their place. It is a special joy for the priests of Paris, who will be returning to the place where they offered their lives in service to Christ, to the Church and to their brothers and sisters.

Impatience, because are anxious to once again welcome the world under the soaring vaults of the cathedral, the expected 15 million visitors every year, of all origins and spiritual affiliations. It is our responsibility and our honor to generously welcome all visitors to Notre-Dame, and to share the treasure that lies within: the dazzling beauty of the arts which have been laid at the feet of the Virgin Mary over the centuries by generations of believers, and the grace of the universal message of love and life that we are asked to proclaim.

Gratitude, because we shall never forget that it is thanks to hundreds of thousands of generous donors that Notre-Dame de Paris will once again open its doors to worship and visitors. On April 15, 2019, as the flames swept through our beloved cathedral, hundreds of thousands of people believed in and committed their support to what seemed an impossible challenge: to restore the cathedral to its former glory within the unprecedented five-year time-frame declared by the President of France. I would like to express my gratitude to all who gave so generously. I would also like to thank all those who have worked from near and far on restoring the cathedral, whether through the Rebâtir Notre-Dame de Paris public entity, the cathedral or the diocese, starting with General Jean-Louis Georgelin.

Responsibility because we had to complete an extraordinary undertaking, including commissioning liturgical furnishings and other interior fittings, and welcoming the public back to the cathedral. We have been careful to ensure that all visitors, wherever they may come from and whatever hopes they may carry in their hearts, experience a profound contact, a proximity, an explanation of the Christian mystery that is celebrated in this cathedral.

Finally, the desire for communion with all. That is precisely what Our Lady is calling upon us to do: we are compelled by the extraordinary worldwide empathy and outpouring of generosity on the evening of the fire. Like a reflection of what happened that night when believers and non-believers shared a same sorrow and a same hope, we would like to share a same joy with as many people as possible over the coming days.

For us Catholics, Notre-Dame de Paris is indeed the house of God and a sign of his loving presence in the midst of the world; a symbol of the unity of the Church; a privileged site for missionary action, communion and service; a sacred and beautiful space that voices the very beauty and goodness of God. Notre-Dame is all this for us, but we are also glad that thanks to its rich history, our cathedral can have a particular meaning in the heart of each individual. She is indeed Our Lady for all humanity, Our Lady of the people, Our Lady of all those who seek, Our Lady of all those who weep. On December 7, the world will once again find its refuge and receive this invitation to contemplation and hope. We cannot wait to welcome the world.

† Mgr Laurent Ulrich
Archbishop of Paris

On my last visit to the cathedral, I was virtually alone and had the time to pray, to walk around and to pay attention to the details. The bronze liturgical furnishings have taken their rightful place and blend harmoniously with the warm blond stone of Notre-Dame. Artworks are gradually being reinstalled and the chandeliers shine. Light glorifies it all! The cathedral exudes an overall impression of great simplicity and extreme delicateness. Everything here is beautiful, inviting us to pray, to meditate, to pause for a spiritual experience of the heart and soul.

My visit was also an opportunity to give thanks for all those who have worked tirelessly to make sure that in a few weeks' time we can all 'reunite with Notre-Dame'!
I am extremely grateful to all those who have taken up this formidable challenge and made the cathedral's resurrection possible: the President of the Republic, the donors, the Public Entity, the various enterprises and the companions; the Atelier de Notre-Dame artists and enterprises, the cathedral team; all have contributed to this extraordinary feat.

The challenge of rebuilding Notre-Dame de Paris in five years has been met. It has not been easy. Multiple difficulties had to be overcome. However, it showed us that in this period of doubt and questioning, when we remain united and mobilized around a shared goal, we can achieve the impossible.

Now it is time to be reunited with Notre-Dame de Paris. It is time for the cathedral to reopen her doors to the 14 or 15 million faithful and visitors we expect to visit. All shall be welcomed equally and invited to marvel and reflect before so much beauty.

For me, the reopening of the cathedral is a sign of hope. As I had the opportunity to say symbolically upon the arrival of the bell for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, it is a sign of the victory of life over death, of light over darkness. What seemed lost has found new life.

In the 2 1/2 years since the Archbishop entrusted me with the task of reopening his cathedral, Notre-Dame de Paris, I have maintained a two-fold objective for the coming days: to ensure that the unity that has prevailed over the past 5 years continues until the cathedral reopening and beyond, for Notre-Dame is inherently a symbol of unity; and that the cathedral reopening ceremonies welcoming the return of worship and prayer are moments of spiritual fervor, shared joy and thanksgiving. Notre-Dame de Paris is simultaneously a religious and cultural building: its dual vocation must be honored at the reopening, while not forgetting its origins and centuries of history.

We all remember where we were on April 15, 2019, and the pain we felt. The ceremonies on December 7 and 8 should be remembered as moments of fervor and hope. As many people as possible must be involved in the joy of the reopening, combining the necessary humility of the Catholic faith with the ambition to make Notre-Dame de Paris cathedral shine like a beacon for Paris, for France and for the world.

Mgr Olivier Ribadeau Dumas
Rector Archpriest
of Notre-Dame de Paris cathedral





THE REOPENING OF NOTRE-DAME 7 DECEMBER 2024 TO 8 JUNE 2025, PENTECOST

The reopening ceremonies will begin on December 7 and 8, and continue with an eight day "octave" celebration period until December 15 followed by two concerts of Johann Sebastian Bach's *Magnificat* on December 17 and 18. Until the feast of Pentecost in June 2025, weekly concerts will be held on Tuesdays and numerous events will be held in the cathedral, allowing as many people as possible to rediscover Notre-Dame de Paris.

The reopening service, presided by the Archbishop of Paris, will take place in the late afternoon on December 7. In attendance will be the President of the Republic, numerous heads of state and government, officials, patrons that have been invited by the State and the diocese, representatives from all Paris parishes, and members of the cathedral chapter and Parisian clergy.

During door opening ceremony, the Archbishop strikes the closed door of Notre-Dame de Paris with his crozier. The cathedral "responds" by singing Psalm 121 three times. The silent cathedral shall once again resound with the song of praise, and after the third time, the doors will open.

After the initial opening of the doors, **the service shall proceed in three parts:**

- Awakening the great organ: after beginning the service with the sign of the cross, the Archbishop will bless the instrument. Eight times, he will address the great organ, which will respond.
- The chanting of the office: the office consists of a canticle, a psalm, the Magnificat, prayers for the entire world, and the Lord's Prayer.
- The final blessing by the Archbishop and the singing of the Te Deum.

The Maîtrise Notre-Dame de Paris choirs will accompany the service. Olivier Latry, Vincent Dubois, Thierry Escaich and Thibault Fajoles will play the great organ; Yves Castagnet will accompany the cathedral choir, playing on a replacement instrument (pending reconstruction of the choir organ). The clergy will wear vestments designed by Jean-Charles de Castelbajac.

The service will be followed by a **show produced by France TV** and broadcast worldwide from the cathedral forecourt. The aim is to share the joy of the reopening with as many people as possible, and to thank those who made it possible.

The inaugural mass, including the consecration of the main altar, will take place on Sunday December 8 at 10:30 am. It will be presided by the Archbishop of Paris in the presence of the President of the Republic.

At the invitation of Archbishop Laurent Ulrich of Paris, nearly 170 bishops from France and around the world are taking part in this celebration, along with one priest from each of the 106 parishes in the Paris diocese, and one priest from each of the seven Eastern-rite Catholic churches, accompanied by worshippers from each of these communities.

Here are a few highlights from this upcoming Mass:

- **Blessing with holy water**: after greeting the congregation, the Archbishop blesses the water and sprinkles it over the congregation. The Archbishop then sprinkles the altar and ambo in a sign of purification that shows these furnishings are unlike any others: they are intended for sacred use.
- **The Liturgy of the Word**: the biblical readings proclaimed from the new ambo are the same throughout the Church, they have not been chosen specifically for this occasion. In every country in the world, Catholics hear the same texts, specific to this day, the 2nd Sunday of Advent.
- At the end of these proclamations, Archbishop Laurent Ulrich of Paris addresses those present with his homily, a commentary on the Word of God that has just been proclaimed, and on the meaning of the day's celebration.
  In order for Mass to be celebrated, **the altar must first be prepared and consecrated by special rites.**
  There are five stages to the altar consecration rites:
  - Placing the relics of the saints on the altar. On this day, the relics of five saints, three women and two men, whose history is linked to the Church of Paris, are sealed in the altar: Saint Marie Eugénie Milleret, Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat, Saint Catherine Labouré, Saint Charles de Foucauld and the Blessed Vladimir Ghika.
  - **The prayer of dedication and anointing with oil, which is the principal rite**
  - The incense offering
  - The adornment and illumination of the altar.

The entire Mass is accompanied by the Maîtrise Notre-Dame de Paris choirs. Olivier Latry, Vincent Dubois, Thierry Escaich and Thibault Fajoles will play the great organ; Yves Castagnet will accompany the cathedral choir, playing on a replacement instrument (pending reconstruction of the choir organ).



This Mass will be followed by **a fraternal buffet** welcoming the most destitute and those who support them on a daily basis within the charitable organizations run and supported by the Paris diocese.








STOCKMAN





OCTAVE

An octave, eight days celebrating the reopening, will allow us to bring together the Parisian faithful in all their diversity, and many of those who have made it possible for Notre-Dame de Paris to welcome us once again, during daily masses presided over by the Archbishop at 10:30 am.

Sunday
08

10:30
MASS OF CONSECRATION OF THE ALTAR
Heads of state and government, invited guests,
canons of the cathedral chapter and parishioners

18:30
MASS
Open to the public

Monday
09

10:30
MASS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
Priests, deacons from Paris and baptized persons on diocesan mission,
Paris seminary and scholars from the Maison Saint-Augustin with faithful from the diocese

17:45 and 18:30
MASS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
Open to the public

Tuesday
10

10:30
MASS FOR THE CONSECRATED
BENEDICTION OF BAPTISMAL FONT
Religious men and women, consecrated virgins

17:45 and 18:30
VESPERS THEN MASS
Open to the public

Wednesday
11

10:30
MASS
Patrons and donors

17:45 and 18:30
VESPERS THEN MASS
Traders, local residents, AP-HP Hôtel Dieu,
CASA volunteers and Les Amis de Notre-Dame

Thursday
12

10:30
MASS
Charities and the people they support

17:45 and 18:30
OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE, VESPERS FOLLOWED BY MASS
Latin American community and faithful of Paris

Friday
13

10:30
MASS
Employees and volunteers of the Diocesan House and Diocesan services; Atelier de Notre-Dame?

16:30, 17:45 and 18:30
RETURN OF THE CROWN OF THORNS, VESPERS AND MASS
Paris faithful in the presence of the knights and ladies of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre and the cathedral Chapter

Saturday
14

10:30
MASS
Young schoolchildren and the faithful

17:45 and 18:30
VESPERS AND MASS
Open to the public

Sunday
15

10:30
MASS
Paris fire department, companions and all those who worked on the site, and the faithful

17:45 and 18:30
VESPERS AND MASS
Open to the public

Two concerts of Johann Sebastian Bach's *Magnificat* will be given on December 17 and 18 by the Maîtrise de la Cathédrale, accompanied by Emmanuelle Haïm's ensemble, Le Concert d'Astrée.

From December 8 to 13, we will be opening late until 10pm, so you can be reunited with Notre-Dame.



FROM DECEMBER 16, LIFE WILL RESUME AS NORMAL AT NOTRE-DAME AND WE WILL ALL REUNITE WITH OUR BELOVED cathedral, IN ALL OF ITS SPIRITUAL AND CULTURAL DIMENSIONS

Access to the cathedral is **free and unrestricted**. The aim is to accommodate as comfortably as possible the 14 to 15 million faithful and visitors that will come to the cathedral every year.

CALENDAR FOR PUBLIC VISITS

Individuals and families will be welcome to visit from the evening of December 8. Groups of pilgrims registered with the cathedral services will be welcomed from February 1. Cultural groups, whether or not they are accompanied by a guide, will be able to enter from June 9, 2025, after registering for their visit.

- **Open to the public from the evening of December 8, with special opening hours during the octave week**
  - Sunday 8 December from 17:30 to 20:00
  - Monday 9 to Friday 13 December, from 15:30 to 22:00
  - Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 December, from 15:30 to 22:00

- **From December 16, the following hours will apply:**
  - **Open** from 7:45 to 19:00
  - **Mass** at 8:00, 12:00 and 18:00 during the week, and at 8:30, 12:00 and 18:00 on Saturday, 8:30, 10:00 (in Latin), 11:30 and 18:00 on Sundays and religious holidays
  - **Vespers**: 17:30 Monday to Friday at 17:15 on Saturday, Sunday and religious holidays
  - **Lauds**: 9:30 on Sundays and religious holidays
  - **Chapel**: 15:00 Monday to Saturday

FREE RESERVATION SYSTEM TO MANAGE VISITOR FLOWS

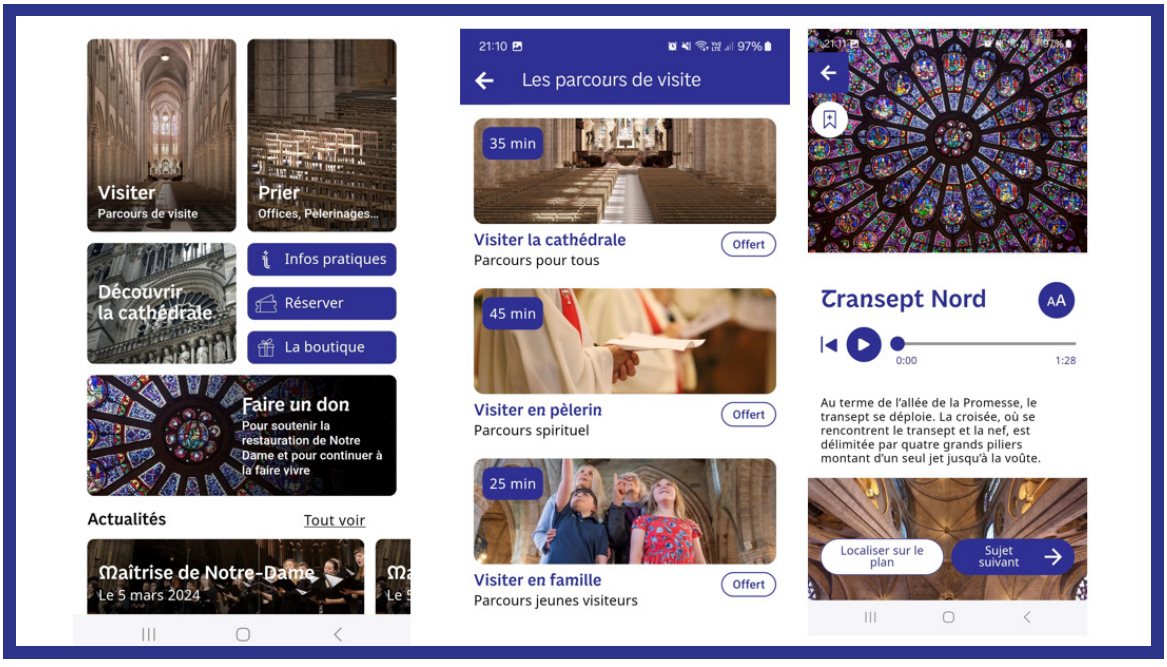
- **Access by reservation in order to limit wait times at the cathedral entrance will go live at the beginning of December. Individual visitors can reserve a slot two days before, one day before or on the day of their visit.** A line for people with reservations will be accessible from the forecourt.

- Nearly 40,000 pilgrims, including 8,000 schoolchildren, have already registered with the cathedral's pilgrimage service. Pilgrimage to Notre-Dame de Paris consists of a 30-minute silent pilgrimage around the cathedral, with 5 stops on the route. Chapters, or sub-groups of 10 people, will be created in advance in order to ensure that the flow of millions of visitors is not significantly slowed or stopped. To register for a pilgrimage, please write to **pelerinage@notredamedeparis.fr** to let us know when you will be coming.

- Cultural group registration will begin in March 2025 on a reservation platform to coordinate group visits. **Groups will be welcomed in the cathedral from June 9**. Please present your professional guide card or valid teacher's card to the cathedral staff.

- **Where to reserve?** Reservation can be made on social media sites, on the Notre-Dame de Paris website, and on the mobile app **from early December**.

- From the forecourt, a community of volunteers will help guide visitors to the appropriate lines.



LAUNCH OF AN APP TO HELP VISITORS
WITH THEIR VISIT TO THE cathedral AT THE END OF NOVEMBER

The Diocese teams have designed a free app to help visitors to visit and pray at the cathedral. This app will be available on IOS and Android app stores in the last week of November.
Three types of visit will be available for download:

- the general visit;
- a visit for families that is geared to children;
- a visit for the faithful who want to deepen their faith;
- a audiodescription visit;
- and an easy to read and understand visit will complete the visitor materials.

The application will be available in French, English and Spanish. Other languages will be added in 2025.

On the website, an online resources page will allow you to download a pedagogical file and easy to read and understand file. Tactile maps and 3D models for the visually impaired, blind and other disabled visitors will be available from the reception desk inside the cathedral to the north.

Guide books will be available at the store inside the cathedral and on the online shop boutique.notredamedeparis.fr in French, English and Spanish.

- Visitor Guide, in FR, EN, ES, helps visitors discover the cathedral's interior and exterior
- The Pilgrim's Guide, in FR, EN, takes visitors on a discovery of the cathedral with a focus on the Biblical texts and emphases on the sacraments of the Church.
- The Crown of Thorns Guide in FR, EN, is a guide to the relic

Other guides and books will be published over the course of 2025.



WITH AN EXCEPTIONAL REOPENING COMES AN EXCEPTIONAL MUSICAL CALENDAR!

Key concerts will feature in an exceptional program, showcasing the cathedral's entire musical heritage, from Gregorian chant to contemporary works.
For 850 years, the Maîtrise Notre-Dame de Paris has resounded within its cathedral. Orphaned for the past five years, the Maîtrise will finally return to the limelight in December 2024, having performed in France's greatest cathedrals and concert halls.



1,000 years of music will vibrate within the cathedral walls throughout the year: **50 concerts, 20 international soloists, 15 guest orchestras and choirs, 12 great organ recitals, and no fewer than 6 world premieres.**

The "Musique Sacrée à Notre-Dame de Paris" season will resume its weekly Tuesday evening concerts, punctuated each month by major events featuring key works from the repertoire.
From the École de Notre-Dame (Middle Ages) to Olivier Messiaen, the vaults of Notre-Dame will resound with Bach's *Magnificat* and *Passion* of Saint John, Mozart's *Requiem*, Mendelssohn's oratorio *Elias* and Fauré's *Requiem*.
The Maîtrise will be inviting the partners who have lent their support during these past five years, such as the Orchestre National Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, the Maîtrise de Radio France, the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Paris, the Orchestre de Chambre de Paris and the Adolf Fredrik Choir from Stockholm.

Large ensembles will also be invited to take part in this exceptional season. The Maîtrise is delighted to be collaborating for the first time with the Concert d'Astrée orchestra, the Pygmalion ensemble, the Organum ensemble, the Frankfurt Radio Orchestra (Germany), the Choir of the National Forum of Music in Wroclaw (Poland), the Pérotin le Grand ensemble, Diabolus in Musica, Discantus and the Ukrainian National Orchestra.
Renowned French and international artists will perform with the Notre-Dame de Paris choirs.
Trained at the Maîtrise, *Eva Zaïcik, Lucile Richardot, Hélène Carpentier, Floriane Hasler*and *Jean-Christophe Lanièce* will sing with *Sandrine Piau, Christian Immler, Julien Behr, Guilhem Worms, François Rougier, Thomas Dollié, Julian Pregardien*... Renowned cellist *Yo-Yo Ma* and gambist *Lucile Boulanger* will also take part in the festivities.

For these exceptional concerts, alongside *Henri Chalet* and *Emilie Fleury***,** la Maîtrise has invited conductors such as *Sofi Jeannin, Raphaël Pichon, Alain Altinoglu, David Reiland* and *Catherine Larsen-Maguire*.

The great organ will of course be featured in numerous recitals throughout the year. While the incumbent and lead organists will of course be giving recitals, Musique Sacrée à Notre-Dame de Paris will continue its tradition of inviting renowned organists. This first season will give us the opportunity to hear *Daniel Roth, Shin-Young Lee, Jean-Willy Kunz* as well as *Sophie-Véronique Cauchefer-Choplin, David Cassa*n and *Véronique Le Guen*.
Free organ recitals will be performed every Sunday at 16:00, first by the incumbents and then by students from leading music schools. Organists from all over the world can apply to come and play.

The Maîtrise has also **commissioned** a number of works for the reopening of the cathedral. These works will become the repertoire of tomorrow: it will be premiering pieces by *Yves Castagnet, Lise Borel, Thierry Escaich, Judith Weir, Jean-Charles Gandrille, Fabrice Gregorutti*.
This new "School of Notre-Dame" will make the cathedral shine like a beacon At the heart of the city and throughout the world.

- **See the Maîtrise Notre-Dame de Paris press kit**
- **Discover the 2024-2025 season now!**



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE REOPENING CEREMONIES

CEREMONY RECORDING AND BROADCAST

As the leading public service media, **France Télévisions will be responsible for filming and live broadcasting all highlights from the ceremonies**:

- the official ceremony on December 7, in the presence of the President of France.
- the artistic event celebrating the reopening will be broadcast in the first half of the evening on Saturday 7 from 21:00;
- Consecration Mass on Sunday, December 8, starting at 10:30, and the first Mass open to the public at 18:30.

To ensure worldwide media coverage of the event, **France Télévisions will also provide the international signal** for the official ceremony, the reopening service and the consecration Mass the following day. **The signal will be made available to the EBU (European Broadcasting Union), which will be responsible for making it available to foreign media.** For international radios, Radio France will also make the audio signal available to the EBU.

Finally, giant screens on the forecourt and around the cathedral will enable the public on-site to watch the live broadcasts of the ceremonies.

On Saturday December 7, starting at 21:00, **a mondovision broadcast** program produced by France Télévisions, in cooperation with the cathedral team, and produced by Electron Libre, will begin on the cathedral forecourt and continue inside the cathedral.

In France, broadcast live and exclusively on France 2 and the France.tv platform, it will take the form of a contemporary 'Great Mystery of the Middle Ages'. It will bring together performers from all of the performing arts including some of the greatest French and international artists, to pay tribute to all those who worked to rebuild Notre-Dame: firefighters, companions, artists, and patrons young and old. Finally, the show will with an exceptional sound and light show, projected onto the cathedral's façade.

JOURNALISTS

In addition to mondovision coverage of the ceremonies on December 7 and 8 and a special broadcast on December 7, the national and international press will be invited to cover the reopening of Notre-Dame de Paris within the secure perimeter of the Ile de la Cité.

AUTHORIZATION AND ACCREDITATION

The number of accredited journalists authorized to access this perimeter will be approximately 300 for December 7 and 8**:**

- **100 to 150 journalists will be welcomed inside the cathedral during the ceremonies (**services on December 7, morning and evening Masses on December 8)
  - Journalists who will be invited to attend the ceremonies will not be allowed to enter the cathedral with a camera
  - A maximum of two journalists per media outlet will be accredited for each ceremony

- **150 to 200 journalists will have access to a dedicated press area** located on, or near the cathedral forecourt
  - Areas with views of the cathedral, open to cameras will provide privileged access to guests attending the ceremonies
  - Replay screens will be installed in these areas

The aim of the cathedral team is to enable as many accredited journalists as possible to physically attend the ceremonies inside the cathedral on December 7 and 8. A rotation system will be set up for December 7 and 8.

A link to the accreditation platform will be sent by mid-November.
Please note that registration is not accreditation. Confirmation of accreditation will be sent the week of November 25.

Journalists will also be able to attend the various services and Masses held during the Octave (December 9-15). For all accreditation requests, please contact the cathedral's Press team.

MEDIA CENTER

All accredited journalists will have access to a media center near the cathedral, within the secure perimeter on the Ile de la Cité - Rue Massillon.
The media center will be open from early morning on December 7 to around 21:00/22:00 on December 8.

The media center will include: screens for broadcasting ceremonies; charging areas; WiFi; lockers.

TOURS AND FILMING

Individual media tours of the cathedral will not be possible until December 7. Filming inside the cathedral is also not guaranteed on December 7 and 8.
Filming opportunities inside the cathedral will be announced at a later date.

INTERVIEWS DECEMBER 7 AND 8

A list of invitees to the reopening ceremonies who will be present within the security perimeter on December 7 and 8 and available for interviews ahead of the reopening ceremonies, will be shared with accredited media the week of December 2.
Public gathering spaces for the general public outside the security perimeter will be accessible to all media.

PRESS BRIEFING

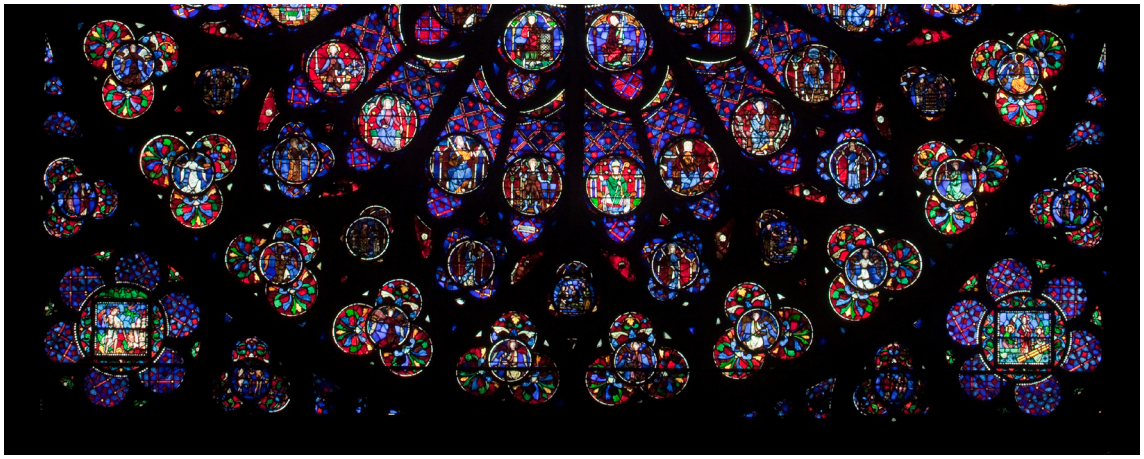
A briefing on the schedule for the ceremonies will be held the week of December 2 in French. This briefing, in French, will cover in detail the highlights and liturgy of the ceremonies.

PRESS KIT

A detailed press kit on the cathedral, the major restoration phases and the details of the service held on December 7 and Mass held on December 8 will be provided in French and English the week of December 2.

CONTACT

Once your accreditation has been approved, for any questions relating to the press arrangements for December 7 and 8, please contact:
media@reouverture.notredamedeparis.fr



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who came together and with great dedication committed to meeting this immense challenge together

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NOTRE DAME
DE PARIS

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