

## Modified Reopening: Frequently Asked Questions

### ***Who can come to church? Where will we sit?***

Anyone who is in the “at risk” group is discouraged from attending in-person services. At-risk includes:

- Anyone 65 years and older,
- People of all ages with a compromised immune system, or
- People of all ages with any chronic underlying health issue, including chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma, heart conditions, immunocompromised (for example cancer treatment), diabetes, kidney disease, and liver disease.

We encourage this group to stay home and continue worshipping by live streaming the service.

When we begin to hold public worship, **attendance will be by reservation only and seating will be assigned**. More information on reserving a seat will be provided in the near future. Seating will be assigned in both the sanctuary and Parish Hall. Please be aware that you may be assigned to a different service and a different location than your preference. This is important as we have a limited number of seats available. Only every third pew in the sanctuary is open for seating. Families, couples, and spouses may sit together in one pew. Single parishioners must be spaced six feet apart, meaning one person on the left end of the pew, the other on the right end of the pew. Similar spacing requirements are necessary in Parish Hall to maintain safe distancing. Please know we have carefully measured.

NOTE: Until the Bishop opens these areas, no childcare will be available as the nursery is closed and children’s chapel will not be held. The playground is closed until further notice.

### ***What are our responsibilities if we have been assigned a seat at a service?***

Please wear your face mask, as they are required of anyone entering the narthex, the sanctuary, or Parish Hall. Anyone outside of a family unit must maintain a six-foot distance from other parishioners at all times, indoors or outside.

We will maintain attendance records so that in the event anyone who attended church contracts Covid-19, we will be able to provide contact information for health safety purposes. Hence, the assigned seats both in the sanctuary and Parish Hall.

**Most Important:** If you are sick or not feeling well, do not come to church! We will

continue live streaming our services so you will not have to miss worshipping with the St. John's family.

### ***What will be different in the sanctuary and Parish Hall?***

Before entering the building, you will receive a printed copy of the safety protocols; as you come into the narthex you will receive a printed service bulletin. We ask that you take the safety protocols and the bulletin with you upon leaving the church as there will be no collection of bulletins upon dismissal from the service. Instead of passing the collection plate, an offering plate will be available before you enter the sanctuary or Parish Hall. During the peace, we will remain in our seats passing the peace only with family members.

Because we are taking precautions about sanitizing all surfaces, those items that prove difficult to sanitize will be removed. Hymnals, prayer books, Bibles, and pew cushions will be removed. Some pews will be blocked off to comply with the six-foot spacing requirement. You may want to bring your own cushion. Chairs in Parish Hall will be positioned to meet distancing requirements.

### ***What will be done to make it safe to enter the building?***

All surfaces that are touched will be wiped down with a sanitizing solution: door handles, light switches, all surfaces of the pews and kneelers, lecterns, and seating for clergy/lay ministers. Sanitizing procedures for all surfaces of the building will be followed before and after each worship service. In addition, the doors to the narthex and into the sanctuary should be opened and touched **ONLY** by trained greeters and ushers.

As you walk from the street or parking lot, hand sanitizing stations will be available for your use before entering the building.

### ***Will we be able to receive communion?***

All in attendance who wish to receive communion will be able to do so. However, communion will be in one kind – only the Body of Christ, no wine. We will not go to the communion rails but will proceed up the center aisle where Fr. Ripp will stand to drop a wafer into your hands. Cross marks on the carpet in the sanctuary and on the floor in Parish Hall will guide us to maintain the proper distance. If you prefer not to receive communion, that is just fine.

### ***Will other church activities resume?***

Not at this time. There will be no hospitality hour and all children, youth, and adult classes will remain via Zoom. (Some ministry meetings are being held on-line via Zoom or other media; contact your ministry leader for information.) The nursery remains closed as does the children's chapel. The playground is also closed until further notice.