

June 26, 2020

GUIDELINES FOR RE-START OF PUBLIC WORSHIP

The most important thing is please do not feel like you *have* to come back to church just because you can! These are still extraordinary times, and it may be wiser for you to remain at home.

Here are some of the key things that will be different and enforced for this next phase:

- We will be limited to a maximum of **50** persons per Mass, and will have to turn away those that come after we reach that limit. Only the main Estes entrance will be open.
- Face coverings must be worn at all times while in the building
- All must maintain social distancing practices, and we have added floor and pew markings to help maintain appropriate distance
- Rigorous, intense cleaning will be done before, between and after each Mass.
- Communion will be administered only in one part (the Host), and will be distributed by the priest standing rather than at the altar rail. There will be no passing of the peace.
- Finally, we strongly encourage those that are in high risk groups and/or not comfortable quite yet to please continue joining us virtually online for our Live Streams

While the above summarizes some of the main differences you will see, here are answers and additional details to some of the key questions you might have:

Should I come?

- Who **should** stay home?
 - Anyone diagnosed with COVID-19, until cleared by your medical provider.
 - Anyone who has had close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19, until 14 days after that contact.
 - Anyone displaying potential symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g. fever over 100 degrees Fahrenheit, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, loss of smell or taste).
 - Anyone who is otherwise sick, as an extra precaution for yourself and others.
 - People who are particularly at risk, based on age, compromised immunity, or other medical conditions.
- Who **may** stay home?
 - Anyone who is concerned about contracting COVID-19.
 - Anyone who is concerned about spreading germs to at-risk people with whom they have contact.

What can I expect when I come to church?

New Policies and Procedures have been developed to meet both governmental and diocesan guidelines, including the following:

- Entry into the Church
 - Entrance into the church building will be restricted to the main entrance on Estes Avenue.
 - Worshippers will self-screen prior to entering the Narthex; a sign will be posted on the doors of the main entrance for worshippers to review before entering the building.
 - Maximum attendance will be limited to 50 people. This will include those actively participating in the service, i.e. ushers, altar servers, etc. The parish will strictly enforce this.

- Face coverings will be required in order to enter the church building. A box of masks will be available for parishioners if needed.
- To prevent congregating and to maintain social distancing while this screening is taking place, markers will be placed to ensure a distance of 6 feet will be kept.
- After worshippers complete the self-screening process, they may receive a bulletin (handed to them from an Usher) and also be offered some hand sanitizer prior to entering the Nave. The Ushers will wear gloves when offering hand sanitizer and distributing bulletins.
- Inside the church
 - Seating will be arranged so that social distancing can be maintained. Families and those who live in the same household will be allowed to sit together.
 - Face coverings will be worn and worn correctly at all times while in the church building.
 - Pews will be marked off to ensure social distancing.
 - Hand sanitizer will be available at all pews and worshippers will be encouraged to use it while in the church building.
 - There will not be an offertory collection. Rather, a collection plate will be available for worshippers to place their offerings when they go up for Communion.
 - Except for the restrooms, all other areas of the building will be off limits.
 - The drinking fountains will be covered to prevent use at this time.
- Exiting the Church
 - Ushers will dismiss worshippers from the pews to maintain social distancing and prevent congregating.
 - Worshippers will not leave or return their bulletins after the Mass is over. Instead, they may take them home or dispose of them in a trash receptacle at the main entrance.
 - Worshippers may not congregate in the Narthex after the Mass. If they wish to greet the priest(s), they must observe social distancing.
 - There will be no Coffee Hour
 - We will have a team of folks that will immediately start cleaning and disinfecting after the Mass has concluded, so appreciate you moving towards the exit as soon as possible

Will the Mass be different?

- Yes, we will implement the following practices:
 - The Book of Common Prayer and The Hymnal will not be available for use, per orders of the Diocese. There will be no live singing during the Mass per Diocesan guidelines. The organ can still be used, as well as pre-recorded music.
 - The exchange of the Peace will be suspended at this time.
 - Communion
 - Worshippers will be required to remain in their pews until dismissed by an Usher to approach the altar.
 - Communion will be distributed in only one form, the Host.
 - Communicants receive the Host in their hands while standing in front of the priest, instead of kneeling at the altar rail.
 - Social distancing will need to be maintained after receiving and returning to the pews.

For any additional questions, please contact Fr. Kemp at frkemp@stpaulsbythelake.org.