

St. Mark's Re-Opening Plan, April 20, 2021

The following offers the protocol for limited in-person Sunday Worship Service that is designed to ensure the safety of all attending. The protocol is subject to change to the extent consistent with Diocesan and DC public health guidelines.

Pre-Registration System

- Sign up for a limited number of congregants through Realm; with a small number of seats left open for walk-in visitors. Proposing 36 in-person and 4 walk-in initially. You may indicate in the Memo during registration any special needs at the service, e.g. gluten-free communion wafers.
- Sign Diocesan Regathering Covenant and mail or bring to the church. This only needs to be done once and will be kept on file. Blank forms will also be available at the church.

Nave set up

- Altar in the center.
- Chairs spaced 6 feet apart around the altar.
- 5 chairs for Greeters and Registrars will be set and marked reserved.
- Initially, socially distanced seating will be maintained for everyone in attendance, excepting families with small children.
- Eventually couples and households will be able to be grouped together, with groups maintaining six feet of distance from other chairs.
- Rector's chair, Pulpit, and Lectern set in usual places.
- Baptismal font covered as usual.
- One bulletin and one bagged consecrated communion wafer on each chair.
- Parishioners to take their bulletin and small biodegradable baggie home.

COVID-19 signage, masks, and sanitizer

- Covid-19 signs in place at all church entrances.
- Diocesan Regathering Covenant will be posted.
- Masks required for all congregants over age two.

- Extra masks will be on hand.
- Hand sanitizer available in the Parish Hall entrance area, at the check-in table, and in the Nave.

Entrance – Greeters and Check-in folks (initially 3 greeters and 2 check-in.)

- Lock Courtyard Door at 9:30 am.
- Post sign directing parishioners to driveway Parish Hall door.
- Parishioners enter through the driveway Parish Hall door.
- Greeters direct parishioners
 - Those who have pre-registered are directed to the check-in desk in the Foyer
 - Walk-ins are directed to the in-person registration desk in the Parish Hall
- Parishioners maintain 6 feet apart with help of markers on the floor.
- Only the Nave level of the church will be open.

Check-In

- Entrance through the Parish Hall; if pre-registered, continue to Foyer. If you are a walk-in, or have additional registration actions needed, go to in-person registration in the Parish Hall.
- Confirm no change to answers given during registration.

Seating

- Free seating
- Ushered seating for families with young children
- Parishioners will be instructed to go in and sit down without mingling with others.

Worship participants

- Clergy, Music Director, Cantor, members of A/V crew, Ushers, Verger

Singing

- There will be no congregational singing. Humming while masked is permitted.

- Cantor will be masked and sing from the High Altar Steps.

Readers

- Readers will remain masked and read from their bulletins at the Lectern, or they will be pre-recorded.
- Lectern to be wiped down between speakers.

Peace and Offertory

- There will be no physical passing of the Peace.
- People are encouraged to acknowledge each other without physical contact (e.g., eye contact, bowing, smiling, waving the peace sign.)
- An offertory plate will be placed on the check-in desk by the exit door. Text and online donations are always available.

Communion

- Communion in one kind only.
- Each parishioner will have a pre-packaged consecrated communion wafer at his or her chair in a biodegradable bag.
- Priest will offer bagged consecrated gluten free wafers to those who need them.

Exiting and Courtyard

- Parishioners will stay seated during the Postlude.
- Verger will dismiss by section with reminders to take bulletin and baggie.
- Parishioners will initially exit through the Courtyard Door.

Restrooms

- To minimize risk, Nave level restrooms will be available for limited use in accordance with Diocesan guidelines.
- Use of the restroom at home and prior to arrival for services is encouraged.
- Sanitizing wipes will be present in each restroom.

Post-Service Cleaning

- Deep cleaning of all surfaces completed weekly by our service cleaner, PMM.