

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Where are we in the process of regathering for in-person worship?**

The Vestry and the Bishop approved our plan on July 23, 2020. More recent addendums have been submitted and approved as we have experienced changes in COVID-19 positivity rates in the Tidewater region. Father Warren, the Vestry, and the Diocese continue to closely monitor the situation.

### **What is our re-gathering date?**

We will regather for our first in-person service on November 29, 2020 at 10:30 AM and each subsequent Sunday afterwards.

### **Will there be more than one Sunday worship service?**

At this time, we will have one Sunday worship service only due to the turnaround time needed between services to sanitize the narthex, sanctuary, and restrooms.

### **Will virtual worship still be available to watch from home?**

Yes, virtual worship will continue to be available on the St. Thomas' website ([www.stthomaschesapeake.org](http://www.stthomaschesapeake.org)), YouTube, and Facebook.

### **How many people can attend an in-person worship service?**

We can accommodate 50 persons (plus clergy and laypersons assisting) at any given service while maintaining six feet of social distance.

### **Do I need to sign up to attend a worship service?**

Yes, you are required to sign up for purposes of contact tracing as well as limited seating capacity. Sign up will be available online beginning on Monday mornings and continue until we reach maximum capacity of 50 persons. If you would like attend the upcoming weekly service, you may sign up online or by calling the church office (Monday-Thursday, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM).

### **May I sign up ahead of time for more than one Sunday worship service?**

No. You must sign up each week for the upcoming Sunday service.

### **Can I sign up for more than one person?**

Yes. You may sign yourself and your household up for in-person worship. You should indicate the number of persons planning to attend and answer the health questionnaire. If one person answers “yes” to any of the health questions, please stay home. When arriving at church, please wait for all members of your party to arrive before entering the narthex and sanctuary.

### **Do I have to wear a mask when we regather?**

Yes. All persons over two years of age must wear a mask to enter the church, as directed by the Diocese and the Governor of Virginia. Please keep your mask on at all times and cover both your

mouth and nose. If you are unable to wear a mask for any reason, we ask that you stay home to virtually view the service.

**Will my temperature be taken?**

Yes. As you enter the narthex through the main front door there will be health screening volunteers to take your temperature as well as check your name off the reversed list for the purpose of contact tracing. Hand sanitizer will be available there as well as in each pew marked for seating.

**What is the process for entering and exiting the sanctuary?**

You should wait on an usher to enter the sanctuary and be seated. Seating will start at the front and work backwards. It may not be the pew where you usually sit. When the service concludes, an usher will start at the front and work backwards to escort each pew out of the sanctuary and to the side narthex exit (by the ramp).

**May I sit where I want in the sanctuary?**

Not necessarily. To use the available space as efficiently as possible, each person or household will be seated by an usher starting from the front and working toward the back of the sanctuary.

**Will there be a printed bulletin?**

No, but the worship bulletin will be available in the *Weekly Updates* for you to print a copy or follow along on your cell phone. Please take any paper copies you may bring with you when leaving the service.

**Will the nursery be available for young children?**

We will not be offering childcare at this time, as instructed by the Diocese. Children are welcome to attend the service.

**Will there be music? What about singing?**

Music will be provided by organ and other instruments, (no brass or woodwind), soloists, or small choir. Congregational singing is not permitted at this time, according to guidelines.

**Will we be able to pass the peace?**

To maintain six feet of distance and not risk spreading the virus, we will not be shaking hands with our fellow parishioners. However, we encourage greeting one another with a smile or wave to each other.

**Will the offering plate be passed?**

No, but there will be an offering plate available in the narthex as you enter the sanctuary.

**How will Communion be offered?**

Our plan is to resume communion in one kind offering wafers only. Additional details are forthcoming.

**Will there be a coffee hour?**

No. coffee hour is suspended until a later date. The kitchen will remain closed on Sunday mornings.

**Will other parts of the building be open?**

The only spaces accessible during Sunday worship are the narthex, sanctuary, and restrooms.

**How do we enter the building for worship?**

Entering for worship will be through the main front door on Mann Drive. If you have physical limitations and need to enter using the ramp, please tell a greeter stationed outside on the sidewalk, who will be available to assist you. When you arrive, please join other parishioners in line, adhering to six feet social distance that will be marked on the sidewalk.

**What should I do if I test positive for COVID?**

Please contact the church office as soon as possible if you test positive after attending an in-person worship service. We have an obligation to inform all others who attended the service on that particular day. You may contact the church office at [admin@stthomaschesapeake.org](mailto:admin@stthomaschesapeake.org) or 757-547-4662.