

St. James is Re-Opening September 12th!

September 5, 2021.

Greetings to Everybody,

We're going back! Yes, Sunday, September 12 at 10:30 am. will be our first Sunday back in person at our beloved parish church. The building has been prepared for us, cleaned, disinfected where necessary, seats are marked, and plans have been made to keep us all as safe as we possible can.

Some of us are delighted with this change and some of us think it is precipitous; however, our Bishop and his advisors consider this to be the best time to begin to return. Of course, there are rules to be followed:

- we must all wear masks
- we must keep a distance of at least 2 meters from one another, except those from the same household.
- we may sing, masked, quietly. There will be organ music.
- no exchange of the Peace
- No contact entering or leaving. You may talk to each other outside the church but please maintain social distancing.
- No passing of the Offering plate. A plate will be placed at the back of the church for your use.
- I must tell you that I am double vaxed. I am. The church recommends that you get double vaccinated if you are eligible and don't have a medical exemption.
- I must ask that anybody feeling any symptoms of COVID not attend. Also, if you have tested positive or have been in contact with someone who has tested positive in the last 14 days, please do not attend. If you have not been double vaccinated, without an age (under 12) or medical exemption, we recommend that you do not attend. We want to keep everybody as safe as possible.
- We must record the names and telephone numbers of all who attend, but you will not be asked about your vaccination status.
- Procedures concerning Communion (only Bread just now) will be explained at Church.

We are limited to no more than 30% of our building capacity. That means a maximum of 24 people in the case of St. James. For that provision to work, we need to know who intends to attend. So, if you do, please contact David Picklyk at dpicklyk@hotmail.com by Thursday evening preceding the Sunday service. Your reservation will be confirmed by e-mail if we can accommodate you. The rest will be on a waiting list, so if you change your mind, no problem, just let David know so that somebody else can take your place.

We have been using WEBEX to enable our getting together this past 18 months. We are having internet installed at St. James, and when the installation is complete, we will resume our WEBEX connection for anybody wishing to use it for worship. Everybody is welcome, and you will of course remain part of their own parish (St. James or All Saints). This installation and the subsequent testing may take a week or more, but we will do it! Then we can have our services broadcast directly from St. James.

In the meantime, we will host a virtual service of Evening Prayer on Wednesdays at 7 pm, in the same way we have in these past months on Sundays. This is temporary and will only be available until we are able to accommodate all who wish to attend on Sundays either in person or virtually.

Please note, there is no pressure at all to attend on Sundays.

May God bless us in this next step forward.

Sincerely, Joan.