

An Open Letter from Fr. John on Church Re-Opening Instructions

June 10, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters of St. Paul's,

As a Parish family, we are now ready to offer a first phase plan for the measured re-opening of our doors for in-person worship. As you will see below, we are asking you to follow new guidelines and safety measures. We ask everyone to pay careful attention to these guidelines for the benefit of all.

Please note also, the attachments to this letter (below). These documents provide the detailed information you will need to follow for in-person worship. Please be assured that there will be no interruption in the live-streaming of our services.

· In order to observe social distancing and other safety measures, we will be using SignUpGenius which is an online registration system. This system will limit the number of attendees at any given service. To register using SignUpGenius, please use this link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040549AFA823A2F85-june>.

Or, if you prefer, please call the church office (912-236-8256) during office hours (11:00 am to 3:00 pm Monday through Friday) and we will register you. The deadline for registration is Friday, June 12 at 12:00 pm. Since not everyone is online, please share this information with those you know who may need it.

· On the day of the service, there will be a window of time for check-in. The church doors will be open from 9:00 am until 10:15 am. If you arrive after this, you will lose your privilege to attend, even if you have registered. This means no late arrivals.

· Check-in will take place outside the church on the front porch at the door nearest Anderson Street. The process will consist of each member of your registration being marked present, having their temperature checked, sanitizing of hands and wearing a mask that you bring from home.

· Please respect the Parish Council Members and fellow parishioner volunteers who will be guiding you through the orderly process for safe entry, participation in worship, and safe exit. There will be only one entrance into the church, through the door nearest Anderson Street. There will be only one exit following the end of the service, the door nearest the alley. Please return to your vehicle without congregating.

· We are very aware that this is not the ideal situation nor are these guidelines something we wish to impose on everyone. However, at this juncture, we must do everything possible to keep everyone healthy and safe. During this first phase, we ask with love and compassion, that you please be diligent and respectful of the guidelines.

Our own Saint Paul says to the Corinthians and to us today that, “all things should be done decently and in order” (1 Cor. 14:40) . We realize during this new reality and great paradigm shift, we find our lifetime habits and practices being challenged. Most of all, our limits are being tested affecting our desire for fellowship. This is when our prayers must be continuous and fervent in asking our Lord to restore us and the world back to health by His grace. So, let us also be comforted with these words of wisdom from Saint Paul’s letter to the Philippians, “do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” (4:6-7)

If you have any questions or concerns, please let us know.

Thank you all in advance for your cooperation, patience, and understanding.

Blessed is the Kingdom,

Rev. Fr. John Wallace