

St. John's Episcopal Church, Royal Oak

Re-Entry Plan

Here is the key information of the Re-entry plan for St. John's:

Worship

- St. John's **will continue to have its principal service on Zoom at 10:00am** on Sundays. Many parishioners have understandably said that they won't attend until an effective treatment or a vaccine are available. And, we have welcomed new friends to our online Sunday worship – St. John's alums who have joined us from across the country, out-of-town family members of parishioners, and newcomers from near and far. We will offer this service on Zoom, and will potentially add Facebook Live, and livestreaming over the coming months, but on-line worship as one way of worshipping and staying connected is here – potentially forever.
- **On Sunday, July 19, barring unforeseen circumstances** we will also be able to **host our first in-person worship service**, which will also be at 10:00am in the St. John's sanctuary. We will be practicing social distancing (each household 6 feet apart), and wearing masks. There will be two entry points into the space – one through the 'red doors' glass enclosure from the parking lot, and another entrance for those with mobility issues using the driveway and ramps in the front of the church. The Chapel doors will remain closed during this phase.
 - To clarify – there will be both an On-line (Zoom) service and an in-person worship service (in the church) at the same time (10:00am) – the same service in two venues. One priest will be on Zoom, the other will be in-person (alternating weeks); the Deacon will alternate between the two.
 - St. John's will have only one in-person service at 10am, as we are not able to do adequate cleaning and sanitizing -between services.
- **Hand sanitizer stations, signage** and safety instructions will be placed throughout the building, along with usher/greeter assisting with seating and with other safety instructions.
- **Face masks are required** to be worn throughout the service by all worshippers. Clergy and assigned lectors/leaders will wear face shields so that their faces can be seen. (A supply of disposable masks will be available should someone not have a mask).
- **When you arrive**, Greeters will welcome you, complete **contact tracing information** (note that you were present, and check to make sure we have your contact information should a member of the congregation become ill and require contact tracing follow up).
- **Each household will sit 6 feet apart. Available seating will be clearly indicated, and ushers will assist with seating.** See attached diagram. Any pews not available for use will be marked off.
- The in-person service will **not include choral or congregational singing** as singing and loud speaking spread the virus. We will have organ and/or piano music, and other musicians during the service, but singing – other than a possible cantor - is not advised at this time.
- There will be **no greeting lines** before or after church, there will be **no coffee hour, breakfast or fellowship time** after the services. Food and beverages will not be offered in any space during this phase. You are encouraged to bring water bottles from home for your personal use during worship service.
- We will share **"The Peace"** with one another from a safe distance, without leaving our spaces and without touching one another.
- We will **not distribute Eucharist** during this phase – we will share plans for Eucharist as we are prepared to do so well before we begin distributing.
- For the safety of children and volunteers, we are **not able to offer Sunday School, Youth Group, Nursery, or Cry Room** at this time. Activity bags, and the soft space for children have been removed. Children will sit with their families. Children are very welcome to bring their own activity bags or soft toys with them, and please know that their presence, including their sounds and wiggles, are very welcome. The service will be considerably shorter than a typical Episcopal service, and we are working on ways to regularly incorporate children's participation, and child friendly elements of the service including periodic children's sermons. Families who are not able to come to in-person worship are encouraged to continue to participate on Zoom. We will also expand on-line programming, and potentially offer other safe gatherings. Suggestions are very welcome.

- All **surface materials**, hymnals, prayer books, pew cushions/pillows, pencils, flyers, prayer station materials, and healing stations have been removed for the time being. A bulletin will be safely provided to you for worship – or you may also choose to bring an iPad or tablet and download a bulletin for your own use.
- **Restrooms** on the second floor and the restroom in the narthex will be available during worship service. We will have signage in front of each restroom (3) that indicates one occupant/family at a time.
- All spaces in the church other than the sanctuary will be locked – there will be no access to the 3rd floor, sub-basement, the second floor rooms (office, Library, etc.) or Jatho Hall.
- Ushers/greeters will assist people with an orderly dismissal – one row at a time, asking people to leave directly after the service.

What can you expect in worship – about 30 to 45 minutes of scripture readings lead by people in our congregation of all ages, heartfelt prayers, a sermon, beautiful music (organ, piano, instrumental, and possibly a cantor), and an opportunity to see how we BEING the church – to one another, to the neighborhood (through Open Hands Food Pantry and Garden). We are St. John's, even in the midst of a pandemic.

Other Aspects of Church Life, Ministries and Building Use

- **Pastoral visits** will continue over the phone, on Zoom, or in safe context (outdoors in parishioners lawns, etc.). If you have ANY pastoral care needs, please call 248-721-4325.
- **Mail service** to St. John's and Open Hands Food Pantry (both at 26998 Woodward Ave, Royal Oak 48067) will resume beginning July 1.
- **Pledges, contributions and Capital Campaign gifts** can be mailed to the church, or made online <https://onrealm.org/StJohnsEpiscopalRoyalOak/-/give/now> or dropped in an offering plate in the narthex/entryway at in-person worship (the offering plates will not be passed among the pews during the worship service)
- One or more **staff** will be working in the building **Monday through Friday**; and will answer the phone between **10am and 4pm**. Other staff will be working online from home.
- The **building will remain locked** other than deliveries, mail, and scheduled small groups who rent rooms in the building.
- **Open Hands Food Pantry** will remain open using the outdoor, drive-through operation for the foreseeable future during this COVID Crisis. Both Open Hands Food Pantry and Garden welcome volunteers.
<https://openhandspantry.org/volunteer> (As you may know, the West Transept is now the base of operations for Open Hands, so you will see boxes of food and other supplies that support this vital ministry during our worship together.)
- **The New To You Resale Shop will remain closed** through the summer of 2021
<https://www.stjohnsroyaloak.org/new-to-you-announcement> We are not able to accept donations at this time.
- **Most small Groups** (Bible Studies, Meditation, Adult Formation programs, Prayer Groups, etc.) will continue to meet online during this phase. Zoom links to all worship and groups and a schedule can be found on the St. John's website <https://www.stjohnsroyaloak.org/>. Most meetings can also be accessed by telephone (call in and listen). For assistance and to get the phone numbers for these programs, call 248-546-1255 (leave a message if needed).
- **Some small groups** (Book Club, Prayer Groups) may choose to meet outside, maintaining safe distance and with care for the group.
- **A Prayer List and Worship booklet** will be mailed to all those without access to email on a monthly basis. If you would like to be added to this list, please let one of the clergy know.
- All **business meetings** (Vestry, Finance Committee, Open Hands Board Meeting, etc.) will be held on line during this phase.
 - A **phone tree** has been established to check in with parishioners about spiritual well-being and to see if you have any needs. If you are unsure of your phone tree caller or for any reason are not receiving a call, please let one of the clergy know. It is also completely understandable if you do not wish to be contacted regularly; just let the phone tree caller know that you do not wish to be contacted.

Thank you. Bless you. Know that you are loved