

# Saint Mary's Episcopal Church

9425 Third Avenue  
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The Rev. Allison Burns-LaGreca  
Rector

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August 25, 2020

Dearest members, friends and family of St. Mary's,

I bring to you Good News in our Lord, Jesus Christ!

In my email dated August 21<sup>st</sup>, I made the announcement that we have received approval to begin in-person worship beginning in September. In order to provide adequate time for cleaning and sanitization, we will adhere to a new time schedule offering **one Saturday Service at 5:30 pm and one Sunday Service at 9:00 am, starting on Sept. 12th and 13th.**

I know that some of you are not yet ready to return. You have my utmost support. We will continue to Broadcast Live via Facebook. You do not need a Facebook account to visit us through the Web. You may find a link to our page on our website. If you are unable to attend worship services and would like to receive the Eucharist, please call the office before Sunday, email or text me, and I will be happy to visit you when and where you are comfortable.

As we reopen our doors, please be advised that our numbers will be limited to 25% capacity. Given the size of our humble church, that is not very many, so we ask that you make a reservation by either visiting our website or calling the office. The information you provide to us will help us prepare adequately for your arrival and provide us with accurate contact tracing information that is required of us.

If you do not feel well, have a cough or fever, we ask that you kindly participate from home and refrain from in-person worship that day.

As we gather together, remember things will look and feel differently.

## **Some things to expect:**

- You must check in with the Usher
- Some pews will be closed for seating
- The doors will be left open
- The aisle is marked with tape at 6-foot distances
- Hand Sanitizer will be visible at the doorway and at the center of the church
- Masks are required of everyone who enters the building and must remain on throughout the service.

**Some things to note about our liturgy:**

- We ask that you refrain from kneeling
- We ask that you refrain from singing
- We ask that you keep six foot distances and refrain from shaking hands
- Our reader will sit and read from the Altar
- The Eucharist will be the final act during the service, offered with the blessing on p. 399 of the BCP
- Eucharist will be consecrated in both kinds, but only one kind (the body of Christ) will be offered and distributed by the Priest alone
- Eucharist will be distributed from the center of the church (please take your belongings)
- After receiving the Eucharist, you will leave via the 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue Doors. (An exception will be made for those in need of the 95<sup>th</sup> Street Ramp.

**Note:** *Coffee hour is not yet permitted, and the Hall is unavailable at this time.*

*Should you need to use the bathroom facilities, cleaning products will be available, and we kindly ask that you wipe down any surface after use.*

For everyone involved in ministries or have expressed an interest in ministry in your survey, you will be contacted. If you have a ministry that you were a part of and do not plan to be back for some time, it's ok, we support you and continue to love you, just let us know so we can see to the task.

While we celebrate coming together, I am aware and sensitive to the grieving many of us will have over the current changes in our gathering. My heart aches deeply for the loss we are all experiencing in so many ways; however, I rejoice in the care and love we have for one another. We make these changes in an effort to protect one another. That is how we Love one another. We will grieve, but we will grieve together, and be stronger and more united as one body in Christ.

By now you may have received a letter from Jack, our Sr. Warden, and Vestry to inform you of the obstacles we have faced financially over this time and the steps we have taken to best see us through. What is obvious and clear from this information is that while we are doing about as well as can be expected under the circumstances, and we are holding steady, we will need to truthfully confront our budget in the coming year to address our deficit in the spirit of Stewardship and long-term sustainable communal health.

It has been a challenge to begin my Rectorship here with all of you under this most unprecedented time, but I am so very proud of all the work the Vestry has done and all the love and support you have given to one another. I am grateful to be a part of this congregational family and I am looking forward to our growing future together in the name of Christ our Lord. We have much to be excited about and my enthusiasm for proclaiming the Gospel alongside all of you is only growing.

May the Peace and Love of God be with you now and always.  
See you real soon!

Blessings in Christ,

The Rev. Allison Burns-LaGreca  
Rector