

A GUIDE FOR RETURNING TO ST. MATTHEW'S

The target date for returning to Sunday morning worship is: **SEPTEMBER 27, 2020.**

You will notice many changes in how we gather as a community of faith. All of the changes are being made according to the instructions of Bishop Todd Townshend, to minimize touching and handling, to make cleaning easier and more straightforward, and to comply with public health standards. The following explains some of the changes as we resume worship at St. Matthew's:

- There will be 2 Sunday services: **8:00 am** and **10:00 am** (note the earlier start time for first service). Both services will be identical, but music will be at the 10:00 service only. There will no congregational singing or chanting.
- Services will be reduced in length, to 40 – 45 minutes each.
- You will be asked to pre-register by midnight on Friday, for the coming Sunday, indicating your preferred service time. Messages can be sent by phone (519) 969-1510 or email: saintmatthewswindsor@gmail.com
- A maximum of 50 people are permitted per service. This will be regulated by pre-registrations. Once that number is reached, you will be contacted prior to Sunday and asked to consider attending the other service.
- Face coverings (nose and mouth) will be worn at all times, and sanitizing stations will be available.
- Coat racks will not be available. Take your coats with you to your pew.
- Please consider not using the bathrooms. Bathroom use will be limited to one person at a time, when necessary.

HOW TO PROCEED:

- Enter by the front door or the door off the parking lot.
- You will be met by an usher. An attendance record will be taken in case contact tracing becomes necessary.

- Necessarily, your ushers will guide the seating. You will enter by the side aisles, filling the front pews first, and working towards the back (see enclosed diagram). Unfortunately, you will not likely be able to sit in your accustomed pew.
- There will be collection plates as you enter the worship space, where you may leave your offering.
- At the Eucharist, you will proceed to the front of the church, using the side aisles and maintaining (6ft.) physical distance. Wafers only will be used, to be distributed by only the priest, using sanitized tongs. The wafer will be dropped directly into your hand.
- You will lift your mask to receive the wafer, replace mask and proceed back to your pew, using the centre aisle.
- When the service is over, you will leave by the centre aisle, guided by ushers, and beginning with the back pews.
- Unfortunately, there can be no greeting in the narthex nor an after-service coffee hour, until further notice.
- All public areas (including high-touch areas) will be disinfected between services, using a dedicated fogging machine.

Your Rector and Wardens appreciate your flexibility as we implement these changes to our accustomed routine.

In the coming weeks it may be necessary to make some slight adjustments to our plans, based on careful evaluation.

Thank you for your understanding. Above all, thank you for upholding our conviction that: *“We are called to share God’s love as we welcome and care for our community.”*