

## **STEP ONE IN REOPENING OF RESURRECTION PARISH CHURCH**

As shelter-in-place orders begin to be lifted, Bishop Mark will allow churches to reopen for private prayer. It is to be understood that the church is open daily at the discretion of the pastor but is to be locked at night.

After consulting with the available members of parish and finance councils, we will attempt to have the church open for private prayer two hours one morning, two hours one afternoon and two hours one evening per week. These days and times will depend on a few factors and will be reduced, adjusted or increased according to the number of volunteers, and, above all, the ability to provide a sanitized environment.

Cleaning and disinfecting are PARAMOUNT. In addition to time for private prayer, baptisms and funerals may continue to be scheduled and celebrated so long as protocols are observed. Signs will be posted at the entrances to the church listing the protocols: numbers permitted, requirement of masks, etc.

1. The maximum number of persons permitted in the building at any one time depends upon the stage of reopening allowed by the Commonwealth. As of this posting - 25. The number of those in the church at any one time may not exceed this number. If people are waiting outside to enter, they should observe physical distancing and masking. Those already inside should be willing to give up their space after 30 minutes, with the possibility of returning later, so that others may enter.

2. For the foreseeable future, physical distancing will have to be observed, regardless of the stages of reopening permitted by the Commonwealth. This means that non-household members need to be at least 6 feet away from others in all directions. In order to minimize how much of the church needs to be cleaned and disinfected regularly, pews will be "roped off" to indicate which pews may be used. As we have become accustomed to in local stores, there will be indications to walk into the church proper using the main aisle and leaving using the side aisles to keep a consistent flow.

3. All who come to the church need to wear a cloth mask at all times. Through the generosity of talented parishioners, there will be a limited number of cloth masks available. Those who take one, must NOT RETURN it, but is asked to keep it for future use.

4. In order to keep our churches disinfected, the bishop expects that those who enter to pray will clean the area they occupy both before and after their visit. Necessary supplies will be made available such as sprays and disinfecting wipes. It is highly recommended that anyone visiting the church for private prayer also wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer BEFORE coming to church and upon RETURNING home.

5. With warmer weather, the doors to the church can be propped open to discourage the touching of handles by multiple people. Two doors will be open. One for an entrance and one for an exit.

6. Hymnals, missalettes, prayer books and other literature have been removed from the church. Those who use such items should bring these materials with them and remove them when they depart. Missalettes will be available for those who wish to have their own copy. You MUST take it with you if you choose to use it during private prayer. You may use it during televised Masses!

7. Above all, STAY HOME if you're feeling sick!!!

A big factor to when and how often the church will be open is how many will step forward to act as Ministers of Hospitality. These Ministers will act as porters, opening the doors as needed to minimize contact with door handles. They will be asked to assist visitors by distributing sanitizing materials. They will also be asked to sanitize buttons and handles on the lift as it is needed; to help those who need assistance in sanitizing an occupied pew and sanitize the handrails in the vestibule. Restrooms will pose their own challenges. We will be asking they be used only in an emergency since they also will need sanitized. Each occupant will be asked to sanitize after their use. Proper supplies will be available.

The hours and frequency of hours for private prayer will depend greatly on the number of volunteers we will have. Ideally, for the church open for 2 hours three times a week, we could use 12 volunteers so each will only have to stay one hour. The proposed times would work with 6 volunteers (2 volunteers for each two-hour period).

Our top priority is the safety of our parishioners! This is of the UTMOST IMPORTANCE! Therefore, we are kindly asking, for their own safety, only those who are NOT considered "high-risk" according to the CDC guidelines offer their service as Ministers of Hospitality.

Based on what we know now, those at high-risk for severe illness from COVID-19 are:

- People 65 years and older
- People who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility
- People of all ages with underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled, including:
  - People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
  - People with uncontrolled high blood pressure
  - People who have serious heart conditions
  - People who are immunocompromised. Many conditions can cause a person to be immunocompromised, including cancer treatment, smoking, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications
  - People with severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 40 or higher)
  - People with diabetes
  - People with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis
  - People with liver disease

Those who come for personal prayer need to recognize the risk of unintended exposure to the coronavirus and refrain if they are sick or at greater risk of susceptibility to COVID-19.