

# Saint James

## COMING BACK TO CHURCH!



### Being Together Again

It has been 6 months since we were together on a Sunday morning in our building for Worship. In the intervening time, so much has happened. We've gone through the first wave of a global pandemic and that has entailed changes for all of us in the way we live, the way we work and socialize, the way we are the church, and more pressingly the way we grieve and cope with stress and anxiety; it has been a difficult, and for some, a painful time.

Due to the pandemic, one of the griefs we have to face is that the way we were used to doing things has gone! I have often been struck by the way the change of life came upon us like a death - one Sunday we were together, celebrating the Eucharist and days later all those practices and routines were gone. Church isn't going to be the same again and it's heart-breaking.

It would be strange though, as Christians, not to seek in this time an opportunity; Christ keeps calling and we keep following, even if this might mean fulfilling the mission in different ways. As we begin our preparations to begin in-person worship again, perhaps we can take time to be thankful for the gift of our community, and for a faithful God whose mission of love will not be stopped by anything!

Bishop Susan recently said 'reopening is far harder than closing down' and this is the basically reality with which we live. A small team is working diligently through an 8-page document from the Diocese along with corresponding files from the insurer and Ontario Public Health, to oversee the many details and plans necessary for us to return safely to our building to worship together. There are many limits, rules, guidelines and requirements to implement a workable system for us all.

This document is intended to help us all be 'on the same page' about what we can expect as we return to our church building and how we can shape our lives together with that primary call of Jesus upon us - to love one another.

Please note that NO ONE should feel obliged to return to church until you feel safe and comfortable. It's important we all make decisions which are right for each individual. Protecting one's health is so important during this time. Your church will continue to stay in touch! Public Health advises that anyone in a vulnerable population is encouraged not to worship in person at this time. This is defined as including:

- people aged 70 and over;
- people with compromised immune systems;
- people with underlying medical conditions.

I am looking forward so much to being back with you in worship and celebrating the Eucharist again in our community and taking the next steps together in our mission to be Christ's church.

Yours in Christ,

*Mike*

Rev. Mike Deed (Rector)

## When?

We will have TWO church services each week.

- **Sunday 9.30am**
- **Wednesday 11am.**

*A Maximum of 50 people are allowed in the building at any one time.*

*We are hoping that those who are retired, find early mornings difficult or who have more flexibility over their time will be able to come and worship on Wednesdays.*

*As we do not know how many people will feel able to return to church, the reopening team chose these times to allow us flexibility if we need to add a service and also time for the required cleaning of our building between use.*

## Coming to Church ...

### Step 1: Reserving a Seat

If you want to attend on Sunday you'll need to let the office know **by 12 noon on the previous Thursday**. If you want to attend on Wednesday, you'll need to let us know **by 12 noon on Tuesday**. You can do this by registering online via the front page of our website ([www.stjamesdundas.ca](http://www.stjamesdundas.ca)), or by calling the parish office (905-627-1424). You will need to tell us your name, address and phone number and name who is coming with you (e.g. list your family, partner or friends in your 'bubble' with whom you can be seated).

- **Reservations for Sundays will be open Monday- Thursday of the preceding week.**
- **Reservations for Wednesdays will be open Friday- Tuesday of the preceding week.**

*This process allows us to have a contact tracing list if it should be required by Public Health and to ensure we don't have over 50 people in the building. Seats will be assigned using a chart that will enable us to ensure physical distancing.*

**Please remember to call and cancel if you cannot attend.  
If you have difficulty registering, please contact the parish office.**

## **Step 2: Self Screening**

Please review the Covid-19 Symptom Awareness Sheet (see last page) before leaving your home. Don't come to church, even if you are a little bit ill. Any symptoms - whether cold or flu-like mean you need to stay home and get well.

## **Step 3: Arriving at Church, Screening and Seating**

Our building and how we use it are going to look and feel very different. We will all wear masks at all times when in the building. There will be no exceptions to this rule. If you are unable to wear a mask we can arrange for home communion.

- **Please leave yourself plenty of time to arrive and go through the screening.**
- The driveway is now 'one way' with entrance on Melville Street and exit onto Victoria.
- Everyone will need to enter the building via the parking lot entrance. Markers on the floor will enable physical distancing.
- As you enter you will be met by our specially trained greeters. They will check off your attendance on our reservation list, take your temperature and ask you if you have been ill or with someone who has been.
- The greeters will ensure you are wearing a mask and ask you to sanitize your hands.
- The kitchen, hall, offices and parlour are not accessible.
- Please use the washroom when you enter the building if you need to do so. The women's washroom is now single use only.
- Remember that we can't greet one another as we used to - no hugging or hand shaking.
- The corridor is one-way to the ramp area and no coats can be left hanging in this space. Please keep your coat with you.
- Mobility devices should be kept with you. There is plenty of room in the row where you will be seated. Please don't leave them in the aisles.
- In the Narthex, greeters will meet you and let you know where you'll be sitting and provide assistance if needed.
- The collection plate will be near the centre of the worship space to receive any offerings or donations.
- Your service sheet will be on your chair. It is single use. Please remember to take it with you at the end of the service.

## **Step 4: During Worship**

- Worship will be shorter than usual, about 40 minutes.
- We will all be wearing masks.
- There won't be any 'prayer-ground' or Sunday school; children are required to stay with their parents in their seats. However, the sermon will be short and geared to all ages.
- We aren't able to sing together, but we'll still enjoy the sound of the organ and hear tunes we know and love.
- We won't leave our seats at all during worship (unless you need the washroom - the one in the Narthex will be available).
- We will not move around at the sharing of the peace, but friendly waves and nods will, for the time being take the place of our usual hugs and handshakes.

- The Eucharist will be brought to you in your seat and will consist of bread only.
- To receive communion, please put out your hands for the bread, and when the priest has moved on, remove your mask and consume the bread, and then replace your mask.
- If you don't feel comfortable receiving communion there will be prayers in the service sheet for you to say to make 'Spiritual Communion'.

#### **Step 6: Leaving the Church ... At the end of the service**

- Please remain seated until the greeters ask you to move.
- We will empty the church from the rear leaving by the two 'back entrances' only.
- We ask you not to gather in the parking lot after church. Sadly it'll be a while before we're able to have coffee hour and socialize again.
- The greeters will sanitize the church space directly after worship.

#### **During the Week**

The parish office will be staffed on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

At other times you can leave a message.

### COVID-19 Symptom Awareness

If you or anyone in your home:

- Have any of the symptoms below  
OR
- you have been in contact with someone with COVID-19

Symptoms:

- New or worsening cough or shortness of breath
- Chills or Fever (temperature of 37.4° C)
- Sore Throat or Difficulty Swallowing
- Loss of taste or smell
- Unusual headache
- Extreme fatigue
- Nausea/Vomiting, Diarrhea, or Stomach Pain
- Pink eye
- Runny Nose or Congestion

If you are experiencing of any of these symptoms:

- Stay home and self isolate
- Call your Family Doctor or Public Health at (905) 974 – 9848
- Let the parish office know, especially if you have been at church in the last fourteen days