

St. Mark the Evangelist Ottawa Parish COVID-19 Reopening Q&A

Q: When are we returning to **in-person** Sunday services and worship?

A: In-person Sunday services and worship shall start at St Mark's on September 6.

Q: Does this mean there won't be any more pre-recorded services?

A: We will continue to record and circulate morning prayer services for the foreseeable future, and are also looking in to ways to allow parishioners to connect live to our in-person gatherings.

Q: What is the maximum number of people that can be in a service or worship?

A: Based on the Diocese of Ottawa's Covid-19 plan, in the Amber stage that starts in September we can have up to a maximum of 50 people in the church at any one time for Sunday service/worship. This includes the priest, organist, etc., and all areas of the church building.

Q: Can we sing during Sunday services/worship?

A: Based on the Diocese of Ottawa's Covid-19 plan, there will be no singing by the congregation at this time. There may be a soloist who will sing from a safe distance from all worshippers/priest/organist at the service.

Q: How many services will be held on every Sunday?

A: At this stage of the re-opening, one service will be held every Sunday from 9 AM. Over time, we hope to hold 2 services.

Q: Once re-opened, will the church be open for private prayers and worship as done in the past?

A: We have always been open to private prayers and pre-arranged worship. If you would like to come in and pray/worship, please check with the office.

Q: Do we really need to be this strict with protocols and processes?

A: Yes! The Diocese has put out strict protocols that must be followed at each stage of re-opening in order to ensure the safety of everyone. Although it might be difficult to come back to St Mark's with these changes, keeping everyone safe is our top priority. If you are interested in reading more, you can find the detailed guidelines here:
<http://ottawa.anglican.ca/Covid-19>.

Q: Should I wear my mask all the time?

A: Yes, you need to put your mask on fully at all times. The mask should cover your nose, your mouth and your chin.

Q: Am I allowed to talk to other parishioners?

A: Yes, you are allowed to converse but this should be kept to the exterior of the church building.

Q: Why are the windows open when it is cold outside?

A: Ventilation is very important for reducing the risk of COVID infection so we will keep the windows open as often as we can (weather permitting). So please dress warmly when coming to church.

Q: Is the Church building open for renters and other groups to use the premises?

A: Not at this point in time. We are still working on a plan to enable renters/groups to use the church building safely.

Q: How do I safely receive and consume the communion bread?

A: To keep everyone safe, after receiving the communion bread, please walk **at least 2 meters** away from everyone around you. Then remove your masks and consume the communion bread. Afterwards, please sanitize your hands before returning to your seat.

Q: Why do we have to sanitize after taking communion?

A: Before consuming the communion bread, you remove your masks and in the process, you touch your mask or even your face. So you need to sanitize your hands to take care of any potential contamination before returning to your seat.

Please do not hesitate to contact any of the following people if you have any further questions:

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