



WELCOME BACK TO ST. MARK'S

We remain hopeful that on Sunday, September 13, 2020, the Diocese of Huron will be entering the AMBER STAGE of the safe reopening of its church building. This means that in-person worship may resume at St. Mark's but with all safety measures and government regulations in place introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the AMBER STAGE, many of the regular rhythms of church life will begin to be re-established, however, there will be profound differences, especially early in the AMBER STAGE.

General

- As per the Diocese of Huron guidelines for the AMBER STAGE, a maximum of 50 persons may attend a service. This includes the officiant, musicians, soloists, servers, greeters and others involved in the service.

- Parishioners will be asked to assess their health before coming to church by completing the following assessment provided by the Brant County Health Unit:

Do you have any of the following?

Cough, Fever, Shortness of Breath, Sore throat,
Difficulty Swallowing, Runny Nose, Feeling unwell?

Have you been in close contact with someone who is sick or has confirmed COVID-19 in the past 14 days?

Have you returned from travel outside Canada in the past 14 days?

If you answer YES to any of these questions or feel at all unwell, please stay home. Contact your family physician or Telehealth for further instructions.

Worship Admittance

- Those wishing to attend worship as scheduled will need to “reserve” their space. A telephone reservation system will be in place to ensure compliance with attendance guidelines. Please call the church office at 519-752-6451. Reservations will be on a first come, first served basis. You will be asked to provide the names of all persons planning on attending the service, phone numbers, email and address with postal code to assist with contact tracing, if required.
- Everyone will enter through the back doors from the parking lot. Physical distancing lines will be in place. The front doors on Memorial Drive will be used for exit only.

- Face coverings are required for all persons as per the City of Brantford Mandatory Face Coverings by-law.
- Everyone must sanitize their hands on entry.
- A Greeter will welcome worshippers and ensure flow of traffic towards the registration desk reminding parishioners to practise physical distancing as marked by decals on the floor.
- Coat racks are inaccessible at this time – all belongings are to be kept in your pew.
- Registration and contact information will be confirmed at the registration desk in the hallway.
- Contact information on visitors and seekers will be required for those not previously registered. As required by the Diocese of Huron, this confidential information will be securely and privately stored for 3 years.
- The offering plate will be located immediately inside the front and back of the church – the offering plate will not be passed during the service.
- Greeters will usher people to their seats from the back of the church forward. Pews will be roped off to ensure participants sit 2 meters apart or in family/"bubble" groups.
- Please be aware that the washrooms nearest the office will be the only washrooms available at this time.

Worship Service

- There will be no bulletins distributed – the service will be displayed on the video screen.
- There will be no prayer or hymn books in the pews.
- There is no Nursery or Sunday School at this time.
- All children must remain with their parents. Packets of craft material will be available to families with young children.

- Families may bring snacks and drinks for their children but they may not be shared with others.
- Congregational singing is a high-risk activity and is not allowed during this stage. Humming is allowed.
- Share the Peace through smiles from the pew.
- When Eucharist services are offered, only bread will be received.

After the Service

- The front doors on Memorial Drive will be used for exiting the building.
- Greeters will assist with exiting the church beginning with those seated in the back rows.
- Parishioners who require special assistance (eg. Operation Lift) will be asked to remain in your seats until everyone has exited the worship space. You will then be able to move to the back door to be picked up by your transportation.
- In order to allow for prompt exiting from the sanctuary, clergy will not remain at the back of the church to greet people.
- Although we know that you will be excited to see your friends once again, we ask that you not congregate in the church after the service. Proceed to the exit immediately. People may socialize outside according to the current provincial regulations.
- No food or drink will be served or shared after the service.
- For your safety, everyone should sanitize their hands before leaving the building.

Now is the time to show our kindness and love for our neighbours in the pews; to understand that much is expected from parish leaders in these challenging moments. Show your tolerance, patience and respect.

Be Kind ... Be Calm... Be Safe...