



June 23, 2020

*For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there I am in the midst of them.*

Matthew 18:20

Dear St. Mary Anne's Parishioners,

It has been 15 long weeks since we last gathered together in St. Mary Anne's for services on March 8<sup>th</sup>. During that time, Father John and his helpers have busily worked to provide us services each week through YouTube. It has not been easy for him to preach to an almost empty church and it hasn't been easy on those of us with technology challenges. We look forward to gathering again on our historic property. The Vestry thanks everyone who contributed to make our services a success, and everyone who 'attended' them.

Now it is time to gather again! Bishop San has issued his directive that allows us to resume in-person worship. The Diocesan COVID-19 Pandemic Preparedness and Response Task Force developed protocols and guidelines for the resumption of activities. The Vestry worked with Father John and other members to prepare and develop our process for resuming in-person worship services. We prepared and submitted the required COVID-19 Readiness Checklist for approval by Bishop San.

We plan to resume in-person services at St. Mary Anne's on **Sunday, June 28, 2020**.

For many, this will be welcome news. For others, we recognize it may be awhile until you are comfortable returning to in-person services. We want everyone to be comfortable with the decision they make, and continue to be a part of SMA's services and ministry. YouTube video church services will continue for those choosing not to return at this time. Bulletins will be available on-line. Those attending in-person services will recognize that the protocols and guidelines we must follow to ensure a safe and sacred space will make in-person services different than pre-pandemic services. Our process guidelines are linked with this letter. Among them includes a Diocesan Covenant for Regathering and a Diocesan Rules of Admittance for all parishioners and visitors. We ask that you review all of the links provided in this ENews and/or website, so you are comfortable with the protocols and the new process.

We look forward to this next phase in our journey of re-opening our church. We hope you do, too.

Peace be with you,

The St. Mary Anne's Vestry: Bruce England, Senior Warden; Ron Himmel, Junior Warden, George Balog, Judy Coudon, Phyllis Doyle, Donna Harrity, Dawn Rodenbaugh, Jennifer Swoboda and Pat Wagner and Rector, The Rev. John R. Schaeffer