



Dear Faithful and Friends of Holy Faith,

Thank you for your patience during this time when in-person worship was suspended because of the coronavirus pandemic. Thank you also to those of you who gave valuable input via personal conversations, written comments, and participation in the scheduled Zoom meetings about your views regarding reopening the church and what resumed worship services should look like. Following the diocesan guidelines concerning partially reopening and the governor's public health orders, your Vestry has decided that Holy Faith can once again offer Sunday services, effective September 27.

Because of the diocesan guidelines and state health orders, Sunday services at Holy Faith will necessarily look different than before the pandemic. Only two Sunday Eucharists will be offered, at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. The nave will be cleansed and disinfected after each service. To limit the time we are gathered together, the 8:30 Eucharist will be spoken with no singing. The 11:00 Eucharist will be spoken, with a cantor chanting the psalm and singing an anthem. To maintain social distancing, a limit of 48 people will be allowed in the nave, seated every other pew and alternating between the ends and the middle of the pews. After being checked-in, seating will occur from the front to the back in the order that the registered worshipers arrive so as not to cross paths. The rest rooms in Conkey House will be available, and it is advised to use them upon arrival because no one will be readmitted to the church once seated. Single use orders of service containing the entire printed liturgy can be taken; there will be no Prayer Books, hymnals, or Bibles in the pews. There will be no Gospel or offertory processions, but offering plates will be available at the doors. Passing of the Peace among households will be long distance only. Communion will be distributed in one kind only, the consecrated bread, with the sole priest present bringing the Sacrament to the people in the pews and placed on outstretched hands. Worshipers are encouraged to dress warmly because door and windows will be open to increase air exchange.

A reservation system will be used to facilitate attendance for the Sunday Eucharists. Reservations for the following Sunday can be made between 10:00 a.m. Monday and Friday noon, or until the particular Eucharist has reached the 48-person capacity, on the Holy Faith website or by calling the parish office. To make a reservation, the attendance guidelines that appear on the reverse of this letter must be agreed to.

At Holy Faith, we are commanded to love God and to love our neighbor. Your safety and the safety of others are important to us. We cannot eliminate all risk from worshiping in person, but we understand the desire of many to be able to receive the Sacrament, and want to do our very best to ensure that this can happen in as safe a manner as possible. We encourage those who are deemed as being a part of a vulnerable population, those who have underlying medical health conditions, or those exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms as described by the CDC or Health Departments to refrain from attending in-person services at this time. We invite you to view the liturgies on the Holy Faith website, as both the 8:30 and 11:00 Eucharists will be live streamed and then available on Holy Faith's YouTube channel.

Plans are underway to continue to offer on Sunday mornings Children's Chapel via Zoom, but moving the start time to 8:30, and to offer Sunday School for older youth also via Zoom at 9:45. More details will be forthcoming. We also plan to hold our annual Blessing of the Pets on Sunday, October 4, at 4:00 p.m., in cars socially distanced in the parking lot, to celebrate our Patronal Feast of St. Francis. Once we evaluate how in-person worshiping on Sundays is proceeding, we will release details about the reopening of the parish office and the resumption of in-person Daily Offices and weekday Eucharists.

I look forward to the time when we can all worship together again. In the meantime, as always, if you have any questions or concerns, please be in touch with me.

Yours faithfully in Christ,



Fr. Robin Dodge  
Rector

Attendance Guidelines for In-Person Worship at The Church of the Holy Faith

- 1) Everyone (3 years old and older) is required to wear a face mask at all times. Failing to do so, you will not be admitted or may be asked to leave. You must wear your mask properly, which includes covering your nose.
- 2) If you are feeling sick or exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, please contact your doctor and stay home. If any time following the service you test positive for COVID-19, you agree to notify the parish office as soon as possible.
- 3) Arrival Time – Check-in time begins ½ hour before the service is scheduled to start. Please wait in line at the front of the church (remembering to respect social distancing) to be directed to your seat. Your temperature will be taken with a no-contact thermometer before admittance into the church. If your temperature registers greater than 100 degrees F., you will not be allowed to enter the church.
- 4) Please remain in your designated seat. Visiting others is not permitted. Respect all areas that have been blocked off. If you must leave during the service, you will not be re-admitted.
- 5) There will be no offertory procession, but there will be plates at the entrance of the church for your offering.
- 6) Communion, in the form of the consecrated bread only, will be distributed by the clergy. Please stay in your seat.
- 7) At the conclusion of the service, you are asked not to linger or gather, but return immediately to your vehicle.
- 8) Liability Waiver – In the midst of a pandemic there is a risk that, by attending church, I or my family could contract COVID-19. However, The Church of the Holy Faith has strictly followed the Governor's and Diocese's requirements for the reopening of the church. Therefore, on behalf of myself, my family, my heirs and assigns, I hereby agree to hold harmless The Church of the Holy Faith from any liability associated with attending church.