



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Severn Parish

1110 St. Stephen's Church Road
Crownsville, MD 21032
(410) 721- 2881

We are looking forward to gathering again at St. Stephen's while also ensuring we continue to keep our congregation healthy and safe. As a result, we will need to make changes to our typical services when we do worship together again. We also know that not everyone is ready to come back to church yet; please know that we support you in this decision. We will continue to post our services online on Facebook and YouTube for those who can't attend in person. By coming to church, you affirm that you have read, reviewed, and will abide by the St. Stephen's guidelines and the Diocesan Covenant - found [here](#).

Part of regathering may also mean that we may have to scatter again. If there is another spike in Covid-19 cases in our area, and we are advised by the State of Maryland, Anne Arundel County, or the Diocese not gather in person for worship, then we for a time will return to the model of online services we have been using for the past three months. The situation is fluid, and we will all have to be flexible and make changes as they are needed for the good of all. The good news is if we do have to move worship completely online again, we know how to do it.

Thank you to all who have continued to send in your pledges through the mail or through our Paypal account which is linked on the giving portion our website. As I wrote in an earlier letter to you all: Our money is a tangible representation of our lives, our work, and our contribution to the world, and when we give to the church, we are boldly declaring that no matter what is going on around us, our ultimate hope and trust are rooted in Christ. No matter what happens, we are under the shadow of God's wings. God is with us at all times and in all seasons. When the world is shaking, there is no place we would rather be.

I look forward to worshipping with you and seeing you all in person very soon. Stay safe, stay healthy, and as our bishop reminds us: stay the church!

Yours in Christ,

Victor+



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Preparing for Church

- People will be permitted to attend these services in the Church:
 - Morning Prayer at 8:30 AM on Wednesdays – 20 people
 - Sunday Services at 8:30 AM -50 people or all 16 pews filled
- Attendance requires pre-registration through SignUp Genius or by calling the church office at 410-721-2881. **Please call the office by Friday at noon to sign up!**
 - Sign up for Sundays at:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b044eadad22a3fb6-attending1>
 - Sign up for Wednesdays at:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b044eadad22a3fb6-attending2>
 - By signing up to come to church, you affirm that you have read, reviewed, and will abide by the St. Stephen's guidelines and the Diocesan Covenant – found [here](#)
- Practice physical distancing by staying 6-feet apart from others at all times.
- Masks must be worn while in the church or on campus property.
- If you are part of a high-risk or vulnerable group should you contract COVID, please stay home and continue viewing the online services
- Stay home if you are sick or show any signs of COVID-19 including:
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fever
 - Chills
 - Muscle pain
 - Sore throat
 - New loss of taste or smell

Entering Church

- The Covenant Document will be posted on the door



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- Doors will be propped open to reduce touching handles – Please arrive on time; doors will be closed as soon as the service begins.
- As you enter, please
 - Use sanitizer (on Narthex table)
 - Pick up a bulletin off the table - Ushers **will not** be handing them out
 - Place your pledge in the offering plate by Baptismal font
- Holy Water will not be available in the Baptismal Font.
- Please sit in the first available pew, starting from the front of the church, (On SignUp Genius, you are just reserving a pew, not a specific pew). Please begin seating on the end marked with an X; Pews marked with ribbons are closed.
- **Each pew should only include members from the same family/household**

During the Service

- Hymnals and Prayer Books have temporarily been removed from pews, but the entire service will be printed in bulletin.
- There will be no singing, but we will be able to have music on Sundays beginning in July when our new Director of Music, David Park, join us.
- During the Passing of the Peace, please stay in your pews and offer a verbal greeting or wave to others.

The Holy Eucharist

- Communion will be offered “in one kind” which means Bread only. A small amount of wine will be consecrated and consumed by the clergy.
 - It is important to note that theologically, we believe that Jesus is fully present in both the bread and the wine. Jesus cannot be divided and to receive in one kind is perfectly acceptable.
 - Those preparing the wafers before the service will wear disposable gloves.
- Communicants may come forward to the opening at the altar rail to receive with outstretched arms and continuing to maintain social distancing
- Starting on the right side, the front pew will walk to the front, receive a wafer and turn right to return to your pew. Please **consume the wafer in the pew.**
- Once the right side is completed, we will continue with the left side, starting with the front pew, taking a wafer and turn left to return to your pew
- Please allow each pew to space to take communion before approaching the altar rail

Dismissal



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- At the conclusion of the service, dismissal should start from the back pews first.
- There will be no coffee hour or gatherings in the Parish Hall.
- Weather permitting, attendees may greet others in the Courtyard while using masks and practicing physical distancing
- Father Vic will not greet parishioners at the entrance but will be available in the Courtyard.
- The pews will be sanitized after every service; volunteers are encouraged to help.

Bathrooms

- The restroom in the Parish Hall will be open for use, all others will be closed
- A sign will be posted on the bathroom door asking that anyone who uses the facilities to please:
 - disinfect faucet handles,
 - toilet handle,
 - doorknobs
 - and other touch surfaces after use with provided products

