



Preparations for Re-Opening - August 4, 2020

St James Re-Opening

In line with the Diocesan ["In this Together"](#) plan, we enter the **Amber** phase on September 1st. This means we resume in-person services on **Sunday, September 5th at 8:15 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.**

I am excited to welcome you all back to St James and to worship with you in person after nearly six months! I also very much appreciate what a unique and intense time we are living through. Some of you are eager and itching to return, feeling comfortable and fairly at ease. Others are feeling anxious at the thought of returning to larger group social contact. I'd like to reassure you, as best I can, that Corporation is exploring how to meet the needs of all of our parishioners. To that end, our re-opening comes with strict adherence to health and safety protocols outlined by the Diocese. It will certainly make for a different feeling when you come back.

It also means our **services will continue to be available online**. Should you not feel ready to return to Church just yet, you will be able to live stream either service, or watch it later at a time of your choosing.

Please take a moment to read the "In this Together" document linked above. Please familiarize yourself with the protocol described below. And if you have questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to myself or the [wardens](#) (Bob Gillett, Jim Sevigny, Jane Venus, and Terry Tomkins).

- You will be asked each week to sign up for a service in advance or to cancel in advance if you cannot make it (this is help us determine if we reach our capacity and allows efficiency upon arrival)
- You must sign-in upon arrival (if you've signed up previously, we can simply check off your name / if not, we'll take your name & contact information)
- Maximum of 50 socially-distanced people in the space at once (this includes Rev. Kerri, our music director, reader, greeter, and clean up team and I would stress that the social distance trumps the 50 maximum, meaning we may reach our maximum with fewer than 50 people)
 - Pews have been closed off (this may mean you are unable to sit in your usual spot)
 - You may be sat by Rev. Kerri in order to optimize social distance in the space
 - We will have to do so, but should we reach our capacity, we will unfortunately need to turn people away
 - Should we discover we cannot accommodate everyone who wishes to worship in person in two services, we will explore adding a third service
- Masks must be worn and will be on hand should you forget yours
- Communion will be served in one-kind (wafer only, no wine).
 - Rev. Kerri will come to you in the pews to maintain social distance
- We cannot sing (though a soloist may sing)
- There is no Kids Club (Caitlyn will be providing packages for children for a month at a time by door drop or pick up)
- There is no Coffee Hour

Returning to public worship in a time of Covid is marked by both joy and tension. I give thanks for your understanding and grace as we will inevitably hit some bumps in the road, despite our best efforts. I give thanks for the care and respect you offer your fellow neighbours by following the protocol, trusting your health and well-being is also being placed at the forefront. I give thanks that we are coming through this time as a faithful, caring community.

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Volunteers Required!

As we prepare to enter the Diocesan **“In this Together” Amber** phase and partially re-open on September 1, Corporation is closely exploring how St James can best meet the new protocol for the safety and health of all of our members.

One of the key protocols includes sanitizing the sanctuary following every gathering. While our contract cleaner, Shirley, will resume her responsibilities of regular cleaning of the church, the new protocols demand more than we can reasonably expect of her. This means we are in need of volunteers!

To this end, I'm inviting you to consider joining a rotational team of cleaners, should you feel safe enough and are willing to volunteer your time.

At this time, what I anticipate this involves is following either 8:15 a.m. or 10:00 a.m. worship a team of 3-4 people will sanitize the pews, bathrooms, door handles, light switches, stair rails, microphones and all other high touch surfaces. I suspect this will take a team of 3-4 at least 20-30 minutes following the service, which will understandably extend your time at the church. That said, as we lean into these new protocols and discover what works, what we've missed, and what we need to adjust, this process may adapt!

Also of note, as a member of this team, you would remain masked and gloves will be provided.

While in Amber phase, as mentioned above, we are allowed only a maximum of 50 socially-distanced, masked people in the building at a time. While we do not give preferential treatment to any individual parishioners, members of the cleaning team will be reserved a space in the adjacent worship they are cleaning for if desired.

If you are willing to be part of this team, please reach out to Sam at office@stjames-manotick.ca indicating your willingness, preferred time, and she will compile a schedule.

On behalf of Corporation, I appreciate your consideration of this very important responsibility!

Keep safe,

The Rev. Kerri Brennan

Incumbent

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