



Guidelines for Phase I Opening the Church for Private Prayer

We are excited to welcome you back to St. John the Evangelist. Effective Friday, May 22, 2020, our church will be open for limited hours *for private prayer only*. The Oratory and meeting rooms are not available for use. When you visit the church, please note that we cannot accept food donations for St. Vincent de Paul, Mass cards or any other paperwork at this time. A drop box is available near the Welcome Desk for offertory gifts in sealed envelopes.

As we begin to reopen the church for private prayer, we must emphasize that this is a team effort between our visitors and our staff. *We need your help to keep the church available for prayer!* Please review the following Phase 1 guidelines so you will know what to expect and what your responsibilities are when you visit.

Before you arrive

- 1) Each visitor must take their temperature at home. Anyone with a fever or any other symptoms must stay at home.
- 2) Each visitor, 2-years-old and older, **MUST wear a mask the entire time while in the church**. You will need to bring your own mask as none are provided at the church.
- 3) Please use the restroom at home before your visit. **Restrooms will be limited for emergency use only**. There are extensive sanitizing precautions that will have to be followed if anyone needs to use the restroom.
- 4) There is no childcare provided, and all small children 2-years-old and older will have to wear a mask and maintain social distancing. The Good Sheperd Room will not be open.

When you arrive

- 1) Pay attention to parking signage. If we are holding drive-thru Confessions close to your arrival time, you may be directed to a specific parking area near the St. Vincent de Paul receptacles.
- 2) Private prayer is **limited to ten (10) people**. Each infant, child, or adult is considered one person for headcount purposes.
- 3) If ten visitors are already inside the church, please wait outside the front doors of Gathering Space. There are assigned waiting areas marked six-feet-apart under the overhang. Once another visitor exits, you will be welcomed inside by the volunteer.

Inside the church

- 1) Once you enter, check in with the volunteer at the table in the Gathering Space. You will be handed a basket with sanitizing supplies. You will keep this basket with you while you are in the church and return it when you leave.
- 2) Proceed to one of the limited pews available for prayer. Only one (1) visitor or one family is allowed per pew. Everyone must maintain social distancing – staying at least six-feet-apart from one another. Members of the same family/household can sit together. Please use the center aisles to enter and leave the pews.
- 3) Before beginning to pray, visitors must sanitize their own prayer area in the pew with the provided basket of cleaning materials.

- 4) In order to accommodate as many visitors as possible, **prayer time is limited to a maximum of 30 minutes**. Again, we need your help to keep the church available for prayer to everyone. We ask you to keep track of your own time; you may set a timer on your phone if needed.
- 5) Please do not touch the common areas of the church including the statues, the Stations of the Cross, etc.
- 6) At the end of your visit, please ensure nothing has been left in your pew. Most things left behind will have to be discarded.

Visiting the Mary Altar

- 1) Kneelers have been removed at the Mary Altar to limit contact between visitors.
- 2) If you choose to light a candle at the altar, please use one of the sticks from the container marked "New." Light your candle and extinguish it in the "Used" container.

Of note

- We are continually working to ensure your family's safety as we begin to return to the parish.
- The St. John team is following rigorous sanitization protocols.
- The pews will be marked to ensure safe social distancing.
- Measures are being taken to limit physical contact between visitors and volunteers.
- You can access the complete guidelines provided by the Archdiocese of Baltimore here <https://www.archbalt.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/PhaseIGuidelines.pdf>

Outdoor prayer

As a reminder, the St. John the Evangelist campus offers several outdoor prayer areas, including: the Mary Grotto; the St. Francis Prayer Garden; and the outdoor Stations of the Cross.

We are thankful for your continued support of St. John the Evangelist. We look forward to welcoming you back to the parish soon.