

Dear Friends,

October 4<sup>th</sup> is almost here, and our re-opening is fast approaching. This letter is to officially invite you home to St. Luke's for Sunday Eucharist. We know that coming back while we are still in the midst of a Pandemic can be incredibly scary, and we understand if you are not comfortable or ready to come back. However, if you are ready, we thought it best to let you know the changes we have made to the Church and the service so that everyone will feel safe and comfortable being here.

Steps to returning to the Church:

1. Each week we ask that you call to let us know that you are coming. The service is limited to a maximum of 37 people, including the Priest, the Music Director and members of the Choir. We want to make sure that you will have a seat. Please email us at [rector@stlukepalermo.ca](mailto:rector@stlukepalermo.ca) or phone us at 905-825-3364. When you register, please leave
  - a) your name,
  - b) your phone number and
  - c) how many people will be attending with you.

Let us know by 9 pm on Friday. (Therefore, for our first service, we need to know, no later than Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9 pm)

2. When you arrive at the Church, you will see some lines on the walkway. We are sure that you are used to these lines by now, but they are there to help remind us that we need to keep 2 metres apart to maintain proper physical distancing from others.
3. Please arrive at the Church at least 15minutes early. The greeter will be asking the following questions:
  1. Are you feeling unwell?
  2. Have you travelled outside the country in the last two weeks?
  3. Have you been in contact with anyone who has a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the last two weeks?

Upon answering, “No” to all the questions, all guests will be welcomed into the service. The greeter will ask you to sanitize your hands, show you where to place your offering into the collection box and then will direct you to your seat. Once in your seat, you will remain there until it is time for communion.

(Please note: The coat racks will not be used. All your belongings must be taken to your seat with you.)

Seating:

- The pews and chairs have been arranged to facilitate physical distancing.
  - Every other pew or row of chairs will remain empty.
  - Do not sit in the seats marked with green tape unless you are part of a larger family or “social bubble” grouping.
  - Children will remain with their families during the service until the Diocese gives us permission to resume Sunday School classes.
4. As per the City of Oakville By-laws and the requirements of the Diocese, masks will always be worn while in the building **by everyone**. We understand and appreciate there are those who fall under the exemption and do not have to wear a mask. However, at this time, even though we will miss you terribly, for your safety and for the safety of others, we ask that you do not come to service unless you are prepared to wear a mask for the hour. We are sorry for this inconvenience; we just want all people to feel safe and comfortable.
  5. There will be no bulletins for Parishioners. Only the Priest and the Reader will have a bulletin. The entire service will be on the PowerPoint for Parishioners.
  6. There will be no congregational singing. Only the choir may sing.
  7. Readings, Prayers of the People, the Gospel and preaching will be done from the Sanctuary so that the Priest and Reader are more than 2 metres apart from everyone.
  8. There will be no shaking of hands for the Peace. A simple nod, bow or sharing of the peace symbol can be exchanged instead.
  9. For Communion, an usher will let you know when it is time to go up to the altar. We will be going one row at a time. We ask that you sanitize your hands before Communion. When receiving Communion, please do not take down your mask to consume the Eucharist until the Priest moves on to the

next person. Please remove your mask by removing the loop around your ear. As you go back to your seat please sanitize your hands again.

10. When the service has ended, the Priest will walk out of the Church to the main door to say, “Goodbye”, as always.
11. The ushers will direct people on exiting, one pew at a time, starting from the back of the Church. You are asked to sanitize your hands as you leave the building.
12. There will be no coffee time.

Friends, we realize that this letter is incredibly long and detailed, however, the point is for you to feel safe. We want you to know everything that has been done so that you will feel safe and comfortable returning home to worship together.

We look forward to seeing you soon. Remember to call by October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9pm to let us know.

Yours in Christ,

The Opening Committee,

Rev. Garfield, Rev. Jody, Gemma, Kathy, and Richard