



*Alleluia! Christ is Risen! ... The Lord is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!*

Dear Friends in Christ,

I am so very happy to be able to share with you the Good News that the Vestry has voted to re-open St. Mary's By The Sea for in-person worship effective Sunday May 2, 2021!

After monitoring the COVID-19 statistics issued by the State of New Jersey for months now, we are gratefully relieved to see that those numbers are finally falling consistently. In addition, many of us have been vaccinated and the springtime weather has arrived. All of this has encouraged us to once again safely re-open our beautiful little church, while still continuing to observe all the recommended safety precautions and guidelines offered by our church and public health officials.

There will be two services every Sunday at our usual 8 am and 10 am times.

The 8 am service will be held INDOORS, in the church.

The 10 am service will be held OUTDOORS, in the parking lot/church yard.

Both will be services of Rite II Holy Eucharist. Both will observe full COVID-19 Diocesan and CDC guidelines, including required masks that cover both mouth and nose, 6-foot social distancing from non-household members, surface disinfecting, hand sanitizing, etc. There will be one-time-use bulletins available, along with masks and hand sanitizer in case you forget to bring your own. The parking lot will be closed after the 8 am service. Please bring your own lawn chairs for the outdoor service at 10 am, which will be moved indoors for inclement weather. For the time being, there will be music provided but no congregational singing, no shared food and no coffee hours. Pre-registration is not required but we will ask you to please be signed in when you arrive.

Though still not perfectly "normal," we are happy that at least everything is finally moving in the right direction. We have deeply missed being together, and we hope to see you as soon as you feel comfortable joining us. For those who still feel safer being at home, the 8 am service will be live-streamed on FaceBook and then saved on St. Mary's FaceBook Page for viewing later on if you wish.

Small groups are also welcome to once again use the Jones Room and Parish Hall, provided all the above safety guidelines are maintained. Please contact me or Cherisse if you have any questions at all.

At Easter I preached that "Christ is risen, we are risen, everyone and everything is risen!"  
And so we RISE! Thanks be to God and alleluia indeed!

With Love, and prayers, and lots of JOY ...

*Victoria+*