



Dear Loved Ones in Christ,

I am very happy to announce the vestry's decision to resume full in-person worship at St. Mary's By The Sea effective June 1, 2021. Starting on the first Sunday in June, we will hold all our regular Sunday services indoors, in the church. As has long been our custom, the 8 am will be a Rite I service with pre-recorded music at Communion time, and the 10 am will be a Rite II service with organist and cantor or choir. Most Sundays there will be adult faith formation provided between the services in the format of a Bible or book study.

We're all so thrilled to be able to gather together once again, and we're joyfully looking forward to welcoming everyone back. To that end, we've decided to have not one, but TWO "Welcome Back" Sundays this year! On our full re-opening Sunday, June 6th, the vestry will provide individually packaged and presented snacks and beverages at a Welcome Back Meet and Greet between the services, from 9 to 9:45. Please plan to join us for "Welcome Back Part 1!" (We'll also have our usual Welcome Back Sunday in September, of course!)

The staff and I have already started to keep a more regular in-person presence at the church and office. This will continue to fill-out in the fall depending, of course, on continued good progress with the COVID-19 pandemic. Cherisse and I will be in the office together every non-holiday Monday, and most any other time by pre-arrangement or appointment. Please continue to use our cell phone numbers for the most expeditious way to contact us for anything you may want or need.

I am deeply grateful to the staff, vestry and volunteers who have kept things humming along in fine fashion for the past year and a half on your behalf. If you haven't been around for a while, please take a moment to notice all the beautiful new landscaping, fresh paint, new carpet and other property improvements to our lovely sacred spaces at St. Mary's! Please also be aware that we are now serving nearly DOUBLE the numbers of individuals and families through our various Outreach Ministries!

Your church home and family are ready to throw open our doors and welcome everyone, without exception or exclusion, back home to church. All we need now ... is YOU!
And so, in the words of our Lord Jesus Christ: "Come and see!"

**With love and prayers,
Victoria+**

