

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Stockbridge, Massachusetts
The Rev. Samuel J. Smith, Rector



Communion Distribution Protocols

August 13, 2020

After much prayer, reflection, and research, Bishop Fisher has now issued guidelines for the safe distribution of communion as part of our celebration of Holy Eucharist. We will begin with distribution of communion bread only this Sunday.

The extensive guidelines include thorough sanitizing before the preparation, blessing, and distribution of communion, as well as some changes to our regular liturgical practices to be sure the vessels and elements are kept clean. To ensure safety for all, participants in the Holy Eucharist are asked to do the following:

- Please remain at your seat throughout the Eucharistic Prayer and distribution of communion
- We will take only bread (wafers) at this time. The bread will be distributed to you at your seat; you may stand or sit to receive.
- Please remain fully masked as the **bread** is dropped into your hands. (No physical contact – if the priest should accidentally touch a hand while distributing the bread, she/he will immediately stop to sanitize hands before proceeding.)
- **AFTER** the priest has given bread to the next separately seated individual/group after yours, you may take off your mask in order to consume the bread.
- If you do not wish to receive the bread, please fold your arms across your chest; the priest will offer a blessing without touch.
- Please put your mask back on after consuming the bread.

For more information on the theological and liturgical foundations for all of the Bishop's guidelines decisions on regathering procedures, see the notes included in the bulletin for Sunday. If you have questions, please ask Father Sam.

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Gathering In Person Protocols

July 22, 2020

After more than four months of social isolation, we are excited that the St. Paul's community will be able to gather in person beginning this week.

Here are some details about how we will gather safely:

- Please do not come to in-person worship if you are not feeling well.
- Plan to arrive 15 minutes before the service begins (8:45 a.m.).
- Bring your own face mask.
- Bring your own chair.
- Bring your own Prayer Book (if you have one) or download the service leaflet from the weekly email, Sunday reminder email or the website.
- Bring your own water if you need it.
- Please plan to use bathroom at home before or after the service—restrooms will be available only for emergencies.
- All worshipers are asked to enter the church yard from the east, either through gate at corner of rectory front yard, or from parking lot between rectory and parish house.
- Ushers will be at either entrance to explain our seating and other procedures.
- If we reach the church yard capacity we may need to turn away those who arrive last.
- You are welcome to greet others while remaining masked and keeping at least 6 feet away, as possible.
- Following the service you will be asked to leave promptly; please do not engage in prolonged conversations in the church yard or parking lot.
- Services will also be broadcast on Zoom: See the weekly email, Sunday reminder email or website for links.
- If weather does not allow us to gather in person, the service will be held on Zoom; A rain announcement will be sent to our email list on Sundays, and will also be on the home page of our website and posted at the church.

(All of this information will be sent to our email list each Sunday as a reminder.)

We realize this is a rather complicated procedure; we undertake these steps out of an abundance of caution, and in a spirit of love and respect for one another.

Questions? Please contact Father Sam (father.sam.stockbridge@gmail.com)