

## **The Re-Opening Phases of our Church**

4 September 2020 A.D.

In an effort to prepare for reopening Good Shepherd Church, it was suggested that we start by measuring out the churches' seating areas.

Therefore, to minimize risk, we must delineate "safe" areas in our Church for people to sit. This means we measure out a distance of at least 6 feet between people in a pew. This may mean only 2 people per half of a pew. Family members and households may sit together, in which case it would at least six feet between those groupings.

This will also apply for the space between pews which practically speaking, might mean 2 pews blocked off between the occupied pews or perhaps to skip one pew but stagger the number of people in the occupied pews.

- Each Church within the Diocese of Brooklyn will set a different timeline than that of Tuesday, May 26th. The Church of the Good Shepherd **will be opened on Monday, June 1st**. This is so we can get all safety precautions in place.
- The Church will be open each day from 11:00am to 2:00pm **ONLY**.
- The Church will be open for the following (Mass will not be celebrated publicly and Holy Communion will not be distributed):
  - Personal and Private Prayer
  - Funerals (Funeral Liturgy outside of Mass)
  - Baptisms
  - Weddings

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- While the Church is open for Funerals, Baptisms, and Weddings there are limitations and these will be discussed with individual families. Please remember, governmental and diocesan directives will be followed.
- The following directives are to be observed:
  - There is to be no congregating of people (e.g. gathering to say rosary together).
  - There should be no more than ten (10) people in the church and they cannot be a group gathered.
  - If you are not feeling well, please do not enter the Church.
  - If possible, please take your temperature at home and if it is above 100 degrees please stay home.
  - All are advised of the requirement to wear masks, with you from home. No one should be in church without a mask.
  - Please use ONLY entrances that are permitted and clearly marked (all doors will be labeled accordingly).
  - Please clean your hands thoroughly either with soap and water or hand sanitizers (which will be available at the entrance and exit of the Church).
  - Please maintain social distancing (6 feet).
  - Please sit only in designated areas which will be marked for your convenience, please do sit in a restricted area.
  - Please refrain from touching any statues and devotional objects.

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- Please adhere to all of the directives by parish staff.
- If you bring your own prayer book to Church (Magnificat, etc.) with you, please bring it home. Please do not leave it in Church.

While there is universal agreement that these restrictions are difficult and burdensome, it is also important to recognize the need to preserve public health and respect life in this way.

As we receive further diocesan directives we will keep you updated. Thank you for your continuing patience, support, and prayers.