



09/24/2020

"I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the LORD."

Those words come from Psalm 122. This Psalm is identified as "A song of degrees"

Songs of degrees were Psalms that were sung by the Jewish people as they journeyed to Jerusalem to observe the specific feasts. These Psalms were designed to glorify the Lord and help prepare the hearts of the saints of God for worship. David rejoiced at the opportunity to go and worship the Lord. You and I have numerous reasons to rejoice today. We can rejoice because we belong to God; we are redeemed, set free and forgiven; we are Children of God, we are joint heirs with Jesus, we possess eternal life and we have been promised a home in Heaven.

For the last 6 months we have been worshipping online and via zoom. Beginning this **Sunday September 27th**, we will move a step further to a single Sunday celebration of the Holy Eucharist at 9:30 AM in the Nave. Much work has been done by the Vestry, the wardens, the staff and the clergy in order to ensure that we return to a safe, orderly, clean, and compliant space for the worship of God. It is exciting for us to assemble together once again. **We have asked those who are "high risk" to protect themselves and join us online;** And we long for the day when they are able join us once again.

New protocols from Bishop Gutiérrez allow for up to 50% occupancy which should mean that most of our normal Sunday congregation can return to regular, weekly worship with additional space available to welcome guests, visitors, and newcomers. Most of the precautions we've come to expect (social distancing, mask requirements, hand sanitizing, etc.) will remain in effect, but these new protocols will mean that no reservations will be required in advance of Sunday's worship. I have included on the following page our protocols as we resume and I ask you to please read them.

Obviously, we will still be a long way from pre-pandemic normal, but I am overjoyed at this step and the prospect of worshipping with many of you in the coming weeks. The adoration of God and the celebration of the Holy Eucharist is the center of our life as a parish. I pray this shift will make it possible for many of us to resume sharing in that which is the source and summit of our life together. If you have questions or comment, I hope you will reach out to me and/or your Wardens.

Fr. Sam.

The Rev. Fr. Samuel K. Ndungu, Rector
121 CHURCH STREET, PHOENIXVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA 19460-3487
Phone 610.933.2195 Fax 610.933.6565



Protocols for the 9:30 AM Mass

- If you are ill, exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, or have been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the last two weeks, do not attend.
- Please arrive no earlier than 09:00 AM, entering the building only through either the handicap ramp entrance or through the main double doors.
- Upon entering, use the hand sanitizer provided at the entrance.
- An usher waiting, will hand you a bulletin, ensure that you are wearing a face mask, ask if you have any questions about the protocols, and ensure that you have registered your intention to be present that day by taking down your name in the unfortunate case of contact tracing.
- Sit in any, unoccupied pew at the direction of the ushers. Families are welcome to sit together.
- The Peace will not be exchanged verbally or physically between members of the congregation; The vernal dialogue between Celebrant and People will constitute the whole of the Peace.
- A collection plate will be placed near the baptismal font, so the congregation can leave their pledge and offerings as they enter.
- At the time of Communion, the congregation will make their way to the foot pace (Center isle) one row at a time (front to back, at the direction of the ushers), lower their mask, receive the Sacrament in one kind only while remaining standing, replace their face mask, and return to their seat by an outside aisle (rather than the center aisle).
- Following the dismissal, the People will leave and exit the building promptly.
- While face masks will be required of everyone who is in the building at any time (with the exception of the moment of receiving communion), members of the congregation should not wear gloves to receive the Sacrament. Instead, make frequent use of hand sanitizer, provided around the building.
- When in doubt about protocols, consult the summary printed in your bulletin, the additional COVID-related signage around the campus, or ask an usher.

Note:

- Whenever possible we will have organ music and at the Choir Director's discretion music selections.
- There will **NOT** be any congregational singing at this service.
- We will have only one Lector who will also lead the Prayers of the people.
- The elevator is operational for anyone needing to access the bathroom in the Smith room.
- Every bathroom will have sanitizing wipes and it the responsibility of each person to sanitize the toilet flushing mechanism, the faucet handles and the door handle when finished using the restroom.