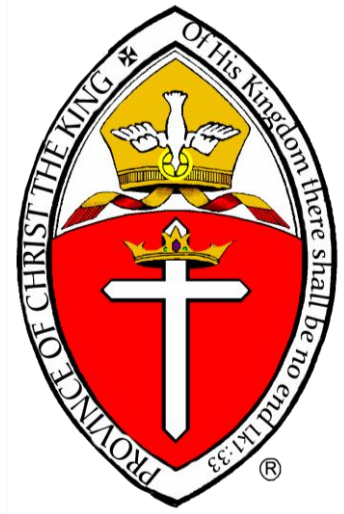


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23 May, AD 2020
Of the Octave of the Ascension

Guidelines for the Re-opening of Our Parishes

Dear Reverend Clergy and Faithful Members of the APCK:

The Council of Bishops, at their regular monthly meeting on May 22nd, published a set of guidelines for our Parishes to follow who can re-open at this time. We strongly urge these guidelines be followed in order to avoid subsequent closures due to relapse or re-infection of the Covid-19 virus among our people.

1. Continue to follow your Governor's Executive Orders regarding stay-at-home requirements, etc. as you have been doing.
2. If you are able to re-open, please continue to practice social distancing in the pews and in the Church; no congregating in groups in the Narthex, kitchen, etc. before or after the service, no Church School, no Coffee Hour, etc.
3. The use of hand sanitizer by all is strongly recommended, both before and after services.
4. Communion is to be administered in one kind only (Host) to the parishioners; preferably in the hand rather than on the tongue, in these circumstances. Those administering the Holy Sacrament, please sanitize your hands before the distribution of the Sacrament, if possible. Only the Celebrant is to make the ablutions with the Chalice. Tithes and Offerings should be collected at one central location rather than passing the Alms Basins. You can always mail your pledge to your Church or use Pay Pal or similar methods, if available.
5. It is permissible for families to come to the Altar rail together to receive the Sacrament, but it is the Clergy's responsibility to distribute the Holy Sacrament in as safe a manner as possible to the Parishioners, regarding the specific layout of their Chancel/Altar Rail area.

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6. The use of face masks is voluntary, but Churches should try to provide them for Parishioners if at all possible.
7. TO EVERYONE – If you feel unwell, for whatever reason, or if you feel uncomfortable about being in the Church building with others, or if you are a high-risk individual, ***please stay home!*** Many of our Parishes are now broadcasting their services on-line for those who are not able to worship together at this time. Contact your Bishop for more information!

Now that the President has declared houses of worship essential, we hope that our Parishes will be open in the near future. As we implement these guidelines, by our continued vigilance, and by following proper protocols, we will overcome this virus and will be stronger witnesses for Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ as we come together once again to worship Him in the beauty of holiness!

For the Love of God and the Sake of the Gospel, I remain,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, reading "The Most Rev. John E. Upham, Jr." with a decorative flourish at the end.

✠ The Most Rev. John E. Upham, Jr.
Archbishop of the APCK
For the APCK Council of Bishops