

**CHURCH OF  
THE ASCENSION  
AND  
SAINT AGNES**

**PLAN FOR  
RE-GATHERING**

*According  
to the Guidelines  
of the  
Episcopal Diocese  
of Washington*

Approved for Use  
July 2020

# AN ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE RECTOR AND VESTRY

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Dear Parishioners and Friends,

It is with great joy and anticipation that we announce the re-opening of our church and  
**RE-GATHERING FOR WORSHIP!**

**Please consider joining us on Sunday, September 6, 2020 at 8 AM or 10:30 AM  
as we joyfully open our big red doors to welcome you!**

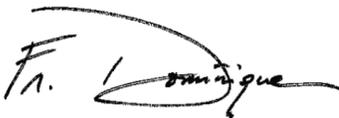
Included with this announcement, you will find our *Plan for Re-Gathering*. This plan, which adheres to Diocesan guidelines, has been approved by our Bishop and endorsed by your vestry, articulates the protocols and procedures that we will practice so safely to gather for worship. In addition to this plan, Bishop Mariann has provided us, as an expression of our Baptismal commitment, with a *Covenant for Re-Gathering in Worship*. You are requested, after prayerful consideration, to sign it to express your agreement. Please bring it with you when returning to church or by mailing it to the Parish Office. During this phase of re-opening, our gathering will be that of the celebration of the Mass (and the Annual Parish Meeting scheduled for Sunday, September 13). Other activities, such as the Parish Picnic, have been suspended at this time.

I encourage those who regularly attend our 10:30 a.m. Mass, to take advantage of our easy-to-use reservation system. A link to the reservation website will be provided in next week's newsletter. You may also call the Parish Office at (202) 347-8161 to make a reservation by telephone. **Please remember, a reservation is NOT required to attend any of our services**, but we encourage you to do so. Making a reservation will greatly assist our ushers to welcome your return. If, for whatever reason, you have not made a reservation; no worries! We will have a place for you as we rejoice to be together.

Some members of our parish community may not be comfortable in returning for in-person worship at this time, and this decision is understandable and respected. So that we might make more manifest the communion between us, we will live-stream (broadcast) the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Additionally, we can bring Communion to your home. Please contact the Parish Office so that Deacon Mary may schedule a Eucharistic visitor to visit, pray, or simply to deliver the Holy Eucharist to your home. Our Lord, in His great goodness and mercy, is very flexible!

In communion of prayer with all of you, we are

Yours in Christ,



The Reverend Dominique Peridans  
*Rector*

Mr. John Campbell  
*Senior Warden*

Mr. Rex Tomb  
*Junior Warden*

Mrs. Barbara Mendoza  
*Clerk*

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Hamilton Cook

Victoria Ebell

Johnny Demoz

Maryanna Henkart

Abigail Wilson



# FOR THOSE RETURNING

**Please avoid attending services if you answer “yes” to any of these questions:**



- Have you been in contact with someone that is confirmed to have COVID-19?
- Have you received notification that you may have been exposed to COVID-19 in the past 14 days (such as when traveling by air or having attended a large event)?



**Have you experienced the onset of any of the following symptoms:**

- Fever within the last 48 hours?
- Cough?
- Sore Throat?
- Shortness of Breath?



**Have you experienced the onset of two or more of the following symptoms:**

- Runny Nose?
- Muscle Aches?
- Fatigue?
- Loss of Taste or Smell?
- Headache?
- Hoarse voice?
- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea in the last 24 hours?

Consider attending the 8:00 a.m. Mass. This service typically has a lower attendance and therefore will allow for greater social distance between congregants.

Use Eventbrite to reserve seating prior to Sunday Mass at 10:30 a.m. Upon arrival, inform the usher that you have reserved a seat for you and/or your household.

# PREPARATION OF OUR PHYSICAL SPACE

## AND PRE-CELEBRATION CONSIDERATIONS

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- All gathering spaces will be thoroughly cleaned before and after services.
- Automated hand sanitizer stations will be located at points of entry/exit, other high traffic areas of the church and in the sacristy. Other personal hygiene supplies (soap, paper towels, tissues) will also be readily available and accessible.
- Prayer books and Bibles have been removed from the pews pockets and are boxed and stored.
- The tract rack has been removed and stored.
- The parish library has been secured and will not be accessible during this time.
- We will continue the use of recyclable, single-use worship bulletins. In addition, worship bulletins will be sent in advance of Sunday, so that parishioners may use an electronic version on a tablet or smartphone.
- The Baptismal Font will remain empty and main altar uncovered
- Copies of the "*Covenant for Re-Gathering*" will be sent to each parishioner in advance of re-gathering. The Diocese has requested that these be signed. Additional copies will be made available for visitors and who may have lost or misplaced them will be signed upon arrival. Large print copies will be posted at the entrance of the church.
- Use of the restroom at home and prior to arrival for services is encouraged.
- To facilitate thoughtful social distance, floor and seating decals as well as directional signage and tape will be used.
- Based on current pew configuration, the allowable capacity of the church will not exceed 63 persons (side pews included).
- The Parish will offer a reservation system to allow those attending services to select a seating preference.
- Prior to re-opening, liturgical ministers and ushers will receive training to assist in the implementation of the protocols and procedures of this plan.
- Online giving will continue to be strongly encouraged.
- When handling currency, counters will wear personal protective gear (mask and gloves) & wash hands thoroughly after completion.
- Worshipers known to be infectious, actively sick or symptomatic are not to attend or will be lovingly asked to leave. Worshipers with underlying health risks are strongly discouraged from attending Services.
- A 30-day log of all services and of those in attendance will be maintained (for purposes of contact tracing, should someone become ill).

# WORSHIP

## LITURGICAL PROTOCOLS FOR THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY EUCHARIST

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### GATHERING & WELCOME

- Those attending Mass **MUST** wear a mask or protective covering of the mouth and nose for the entirety of the service. Scarfs or handkerchiefs **are not** acceptable forms of protection. Those without an appropriate face covering will be provided a disposable mask by an usher.
- Upon arrival, individuals will be greeted by an usher and temperature will be taken using a contactless thermometer and recorded.
- All returning members and new visitors will be required to consent and sign the “*Covenant for Re-Gathering*,” a copy of which will be kept in a three-ring binder at the entry of the church.
- All parish members and visitors will be asked to sign-in (prior to being seated) by an usher to allow the church office to maintain accurate records in the event that contact tracing is required.
- Social distancing guidelines apply to those **not** living in the same household. Persons who are related, but do not live in the same household, are required to follow social distancing guidelines.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

- Liturgical ministers (with speaking roles) may remove masks **only** while speaking.
- Offering plates will be placed on tables in front of the first pews on either side of the center aisle (the offering will be collected during the Communion procession).
- The Peace will not be physically exchanged.

### PREPARATION

- The Deacon will prepare the altar, using a normal chalice and paten.
- Hands will be visibly sanitized before and after the altar is set.

**LITURGICAL PROTOCOLS**  
**FOR THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY EUCHARIST** *Continued*

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**HOLY COMMUNION**

- A small amount of wine will be consecrated in the chalice. However, there will be no distribution of wine (via common cup or by intinction). Only the Celebrant will consume the consecrated wine.
- The Celebrant will pre-consecrate hosts (wearing a mask) that are to be distributed during Mass.
- The Celebrant will be the only person at the altar. The Deacon will stand at a distance of 6 feet from the Celebrant, as will any acolytes.
- The Celebrant will visibly disinfect his/her hands at the altar or credence table.
- The Eucharistic elements will be placed on a freshly laundered corporal.
- The Celebrant, during the Eucharistic Prayer, may touch the vessels, as the rubrics specify.
- The Celebrant will refrain from bowing the head over the elements to avoid bringing his/her mouth close to the elements, maintaining the recommended distance of an arm's length. Communicants will come forward in a single line to receive the Eucharist in a standing posture. Floor signs will mark the appropriate distance to be kept between people.
- Communion is received only in one-kind (the consecrated host).
- It will be communicated clearly to all present that Communion in one kind is a full expression of the Sacrament, i.e., that the whole Christ is received.
- The pre-consecrated hosts will be distributed by the Celebrant and/or other Eucharistic minister wearing masks and disposable gloves and will be placed in the open hand.
- After all have received Communion, the ministers will remove masks and gloves and will visibly disinfect hands.
- Communion vessels will be purified by the Deacon immediately after Mass, as is our custom.
- All consecrated elements will be consumed.

# LITURGICAL PROTOCOLS

## FOR THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY EUCHARIST *Continued*

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### MUSIC

- There will be no congregational singing during the liturgy.
- The organist will also serve as cantor and may be accompanied by a cantor or a maximum of two cantors, who will situate themselves in the choir loft at an appropriate distance one from another.

### DISMISSAL & SENDING

- Ushers will release rows one-at-a-time, so that exits not become crowded as congregants depart the church.
- Worship bulletins will either be taken home or deposited directly into a recycling receptacle to avoid contact by the ushers.
- Parishioners will be encouraged, as they depart, to use the automated hand sanitizer dispensers.
- The Celebrant and other ministers will refrain from handshakes at the back of the church.
- All Coffee Hours, Common Meals, or other social gatherings are suspended.

## PASTORAL OFFICES AND MINISTRIES

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- During Phase II there will be no Baptisms, Weddings or the Anointing of the Sick.
- The nursery and atrium will be closed; Childcare and Sunday School will be suspended during this time.
- The administration of other forms of pastoral care will take place via telephone or video conferencing. *Exemptions require the permission of the Bishop.*
- Funerals are permitted at the graveside **only** and limited to a maximum of ten people present.

## PARISH OFFICE AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

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- The parish offices will remain closed.
- Flexible telework policies continue for the Rector and Parish Administrator.
- The Rector or Parish Administrator must stay home when not feeling well.
- The Rector or Parish Administrator are required to self-quarantine according to the directives issued by health authorities in the event that a member of his household displays any respiratory symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19.
- Parishioners with access to the church or parish offices are prohibited access—*unless permission is granted by the Rector.*

**NEITHER DEATH  
NOR LIFE  
NOR ANGELS  
NOR PRINCIPALITIES  
NOR THINGS PRESENT  
NOR THINGS TO COME  
NOR POWERS  
NOR HEIGHT  
NOR DEPTH  
NOR ANY OTHER CREATED THING  
WILL BE ABLE TO SEPARATE  
US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD**

**R O M A N S 8 : 3 8 - 3 9**



**ASCENSION  
*and*  
SAINT AGNES**

**EPISCOPAL \* ANGLICAN  
CHURCH**