

Return to In Person Worship Services

St. Mary of the Harbor has received approval from Bishop Gates to reinstate in person worship services beginning on October 4, 2020. This service will take place outdoors in the churchyard. In case of inclement weather, the in person service will be cancelled.

To protect everyone's wellbeing, safety protocols required by the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will be followed. That means we will be doing things a bit differently. With limited seating available, preregistration will be required to attend worship services for the foreseeable future.

An online registration site will be available through a link on St. Mary of the Harbor's website beginning September 29. If you prefer, you can call the church office at 508-487-2622 to reserve seating. When reserving space, either online or by phone, you will be required to provide the names of each person in your household who will be attending. This is required for health department contact tracing purposes if needed. Registration will close once all seats have been reserved.

What you need to know before you arrive for our outdoor worship services:

- Early arrival is encouraged
- Masks covering the nose and mouth are required
- One way traffic patterns will be in effect. Look for the directional signs
- Ushers will be stationed to assist you with questions
- Enter the churchyard via the sidewalk leading from the parking lot, not through the lichgate, church or parish hall.
- Hand sanitizer and disposable masks will be available at the entrance
- Maintain the recommended 6 feet distance from other attendees
- Sorry, no hugs when exchanging the peace
- Even sorrier, no congregational singing
- No coffee hour following church
- Collection plates will be located at the entrance for those who wish to bring their donations with them. You can also give online via the PayPal link on the church's website or by you can mail your donation to the church office.
- Observe one way traffic patterns if you use the restroom. Look for the directional signs. Do not congregate around the restrooms. Maintain a safe distance.

What you need to know about Holy Eucharist:

- Communion in one kind will be distributed (bread only, no wine)
- Communion wafers, individually wrapped in cellophane will be used to reduce the possibility of contamination
- Distribution of communion will take place at the end of the worship service

As we move forward, we will proceed carefully and thoughtfully, keeping a watchful eye on infection rates on the Outer Cape and in Massachusetts. If warranted, we will suspend in person services again until it is safe to return. Online worship services will continue for the foreseeable future.

Lastly, with the cooler weather it will be necessary to move indoors for worship services. Protocols for indoor worship service are already in place and can be easily implemented. Before moving to indoor worship services, you will receive a special edition newsletter outlining how it will work. Thank you for your patience and your continued financial support for St. Mary of the Harbor.