

St Thomas Frequently Asked Questions

Will there be one or two services each week?

There will only be the one service at 9:30 am until we build the numbers back up. Once we see all members of the congregation coming back, then we will have 2 services at 8:30 am and 10:30 am. Rev. Lee will make this decision moving forward.

Will services still be available online?

Yes, the online services will continue.

Will there be music?

Yes, there will be music played but no singing at this time.

Will Communion be the same as it used to be?

No, we will not be using the common cup. Only the host will be given out.

Will I need to sign in when I come into the church?

Yes, we have to keep a safety track in case of an incident.

Can I sit with my extended family?

Yes, you can. The pews in the church will accommodate members of the same family but are still divided so everyone else can sit apart.

Will there be coffee hour after the service?

No, not at this time. While we are in Amber or Yellow we cannot serve refreshments. We will adjust this as we move into other colours according to the Diocese.

Will there be a nursery for the young children?

Yes, we will have a nursery set up in the coat room off the Narthex. During Amber, the nursery cannot be supervised by a member of the congregation but will be available if a parent needs to breast feed or have a quiet place for their child. The service can be heard in this area through speakers.

Will church school be offered now?

No, during Amber we will not have church school. We will update that as we move into the different colours under the direction of the diocese. We will continue to offer church school online.

Do you have to notify the church ahead of time that you plan on attending Sunday worship?

No, you can just arrive for the service.

Do we have to enter and exit a particular door?

Yes, you will enter and exit through the main double doors on Carleton Cathcart.

Will there be hand sanitizer available for our use.

Yes, we have several hand sanitizing stations throughout the church.

Will I need to wear my mask?

Yes, masks are still required by everyone, until the diocese gives us clearance that we don't need to wear them anymore?

Will the Collection Plate be passed during the service?

No, it will not be passed during the service. It will be sitting on a stand as you enter the church, so you can place your offering on the plate at this time.

Will Open Table begin again?

No, we cannot not run any dinners at this time. Once we enter green which opens our church up fully, only then that we can prepare and serve dinners.

Will we be Passing the Peace?

We will verbally pass the peace. There will be no hugging or hand shaking.

Will we be able to hold meetings in the Church again?

Yes we can, but with very limited numbers. We must follow the Diocese guidelines as to the numbers of persons that can attend. It is important that any group wishing to use any part of the church for a meeting, speak to the Office Administrator or Rev. Lee before bringing in a group for a meeting.

Do you have to be vaccinated to attend a service?

No you do not, but you will have to follow all the Health Guidelines, like wearing a mask and social distancing.

Will there be social distancing?

Yes, there will be social distancing. We are presently in Amber moving into yellow. Until the Diocese informs us we can move into green, all safety precautions will be remain in effect.

When will church services return to normal?

We are following the strict guidelines of the Diocese. They will inform us when we can move through Amber (which we are in now) into Yellow. We will move from Yellow into Green, at which time, the services can return to normal.

How has the church managed financially throughout the shutdown?

We are not meeting budget at this present time, but are hopeful that the offerings will increase, when we are back holding in person services. We are very thankful for the members of the congregation that have continued with their regular givings, throughout the pandemic. Overall, we have faired quite well, considering everything that has gone on with the pandemic.

Is there a limit to the number of people that can be in the church together?

Yes there is a limit. At present we are in Amber, so we are allowed 30% capacity. The same percentage is allowed when we move into Yellow.