



the **Church**
of **St Peter** and
St Simon-the-Apostle

525 Bloor Street East
Toronto, ON M4W 1J1
Tel: 416-923-8714
office@stpeterstsimon.ca

A Letter from the Rector and Wardens of St Peter and St-Simon-the-Apostle

February 18, 2022

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St Peter and St Simon-the-Apostle,

The very positive signs that this latest wave of Covid-19 is receding are encouraging. This week the parish Health and Safety Committee recommended to us that in-person services may resume as of Ash Wednesday, March 2, 2022. We support their recommendation and are excited that this step to reopen can be taken. There will be two services (11 am and 7 pm) with cantor only. Our first Sunday back to in-person worship will be the First Sunday in Lent, March 6th at 10.30 am.

The committee also agreed that choir rehearsals will resume. This will happen in the same manner as last fall, with appropriate and well-fitted medical masks covering both the nose and mouth at all times, social distancing of at least 2 metres between each person, and with the same time limit of 90 minutes. Furthermore, your Health & Safety Committee agreed unanimously that all those in roles such as clergy, servers, readers, intercessors, sides-people, musicians, etc., should be fully immunized. The latest scientific information regarding the omicron variant indicates that this means a third booster for all who received their second shot more than three months ago. For anyone with only two shots who became infected with Covid-19, we understand that this conveys immunity for three months, and you are advised to wait for three months after recovery before receiving the booster. While there is not a vaccine requirement for those attending public worship, we recommend strongly that everyone attending services be fully vaccinated with the booster.

Our return to in-person worship will be careful and gradual to keep everyone safe – especially given the vulnerable among us and the susceptibility to infection by this virus, even if fully vaccinated and boosted. We also want to minimize the possibility of having to pull back. Any decisions regarding a change in protocols including an increase in singing and choral participation will be considered carefully before they are implemented. We will keep you informed. No one should feel obliged to attend in-person services, rehearsals or other gatherings and we respect the decision you make.

This pandemic is far from over. We will need to be vigilant as we move forward in reopening, recognizing the very real possibility that another wave or variant could hit us in future, requiring yet another reduction of in-person gathering. Should this happen, we anticipate that you will understand and will support the decisions that Corporation may need to make in such circumstances. Of course, we all pray that this will not be necessary.

We are grateful for your understanding and prayers during these uncertain times. As we anticipate Lent and Easter with this welcome return to public worship we give thanks for the grace of our generous and merciful God who, through Jesus Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit brings light and hope.

Yours faithfully,

Fr Geoffrey Sangwine, Rector
Ted Robinson, Rector's Warden
Vanessa Scott, People's Warden

