

Letter to the Parishioners and Friends of St Peter and St Simon-the-Apostle

March 11, 2022

Dear Friends,

As the Province continues to ease health restrictions, so too does the Church in the Diocese of Toronto.

Updated Diocesan guidelines are that capacity limits in churches are lifted, and those who read, lead prayers or preach may do so unmasked. Choirs may return masked, observing two metre distance between choristers and four meters from the congregation. Holy Communion will continue to be administered in one kind only (bread) at a standing communion station, though the Diocese is taking into consideration the return of the common chalice. Contact tracing is no longer mandatory. Coffee hour may also return but only with tables and service, restaurant style.

The College of Bishops is clear that the decision of each parish to make decisions appropriate to their context is respected and commended. As the situation has evolved through this pandemic, and as we make our return to in-person Church activities, we at St Peter and St Simon-the-Apostle are committed to a gradual approach in the easing of restrictions.

At the advice of the Health and Safety Committee, the Wardens and I have agreed that the choir should return at this time, in the same manner as they returned last fall prior to the post-Christmas suspension of in-person worship. The choir will be masked at all times. For the moment, we have decided that readers, prayer leaders and the clergy shall remain masked, though if there is a guest preacher (as was the case on March 6th), they may preach unmasked if desired. We have also decided to hold off on scheduling coffee hour until we see how the health situation unfolds with the easing of restrictions. The Welcome Desk will remain, and we will continue to have parishioners sign-in. Distancing in the Church will continue. Also, please note the introduction of a 9.15 am service (said) for those who would like that option.

All the changes over the past two years have been wearying, but we have weathered this well. Life is not back to normal yet, and it may never be what it was, but things are certainly much brighter. Being together again will take care and cooperation. I want to take this opportunity to thank our leadership team and you our parishioners for your patience, prayers and understanding.

As we continue to journey through Lent, may we draw closer to the Lord, knowing that he is close to us, especially in these times. May the God of infinite goodness hold us, and this troubled world, in the palm of his hand.

Yours Faithfully,

The Reverend Canon Geoffrey Sangwine+

Please join us Sunday, March 20, 2022 at 4 pm

Choral Evening Prayer and Vigil for the People of Ukraine

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek

to be consoled as to console;

to be understood as to understand;

to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen

Prayer of St Francis of Assisi