

# Procedures for Returning to Worship in the Sanctuary and other Functions of the Church

(May 5, 2020)

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.  
(Ecclesiastes 3:1)

At our May 5<sup>th</sup> Church Council meeting, the Council decided it was time to reopen the Sanctuary for worship services; however, we want to do it safely following the civil authorities' guidelines. The precautions that will be in place are as follows:

1. The date for beginning to hold worship in the Sanctuary will be Sunday, May 17.
2. If you are not feeling well, please stay home. If you do not feel comfortable coming back to church at this time, you are still welcome to listen to the radio broadcast at 100.1 FM or on the livestream at our church website: [www.stpaulykt.org](http://www.stpaulykt.org) and click on the link: [Shoutcast Audio Stream](#). Bulletins will also be available.
3. Please respect other people. People have a wide range of viewpoints, opinions, and experiences with the pandemic and the handling of it. We can love one another as Christian brothers and sisters even when we disagree.
4. Currently, the safe capacity for attendance has been determined to be 100 persons based on full capacity of the sanctuary being 400. This number will be increased as reopening Texas continues with new COVID-19 cases remaining manageable by health entities and local medical resources.
5. Facemasks are highly recommended. The use of facemasks are not intended to keep the user safe, but to keep the other people around you safe. Remember, you can have few or no symptoms and still be contagious to someone who will be unable to tolerate the disease as well as you can. Our Lord instructed us to love our neighbor as ourselves. Let us strive to do this by taking the actions necessary to protect our fellow brothers and sisters even it may feel uncomfortable or strange. Please bring your own facemask, but if you do not have one, we will have some available at the entrances to the sanctuary.
6. Hand Sanitizers will be available at entrances. Feel free to use them before and after services.
7. Keep every other pew vacant (signs will be posted on the pews). Households may sit together; otherwise, keep at least six feet of space between you and the next person.

8. Offering plates will be left at the entrances and brought forward at the offering time in the service. They will not be passed through the pews.
9. Attendance cards may be left in the pews close to the center aisle or dropped in the baskets at the exit when the service is over.
10. Holy Communion will be continuous (not at the rail) using the individual cups. We will strive to maintain a safe 6-foot social distance as we come to communion. Servers will wear masks and gloves. Used cups will be dropped into a container. Holy Communion will be offered every Sunday so that we do not exclude anyone.
11. At this time Acolytes will not be needed.
12. Normal cleaning of the Sanctuary should suffice unless we have more than one worship service within a 48 hour period.
13. Opening Saturday Services will be delayed until more thought is given to this and to what new purpose this service may serve. The Saturday service cannot be held in the Chapel because there is not enough space to spread out. We may want this as a dedicated service for those who are over 65 or those having underlying health issues, or we may need this service if our Sunday service has more attendees than is safe to be able to spread out. Another option may be to have a midweek service so that we do not have back-to-back services in the Sanctuary. Whichever is chosen, we will follow the same procedures above for conducting the Saturday Service.
14. All other worship services in the sanctuary (Weddings, Funerals, Memorial Services, etc.) will follow the same procedures as the Sunday morning worship service.
15. At this time we will not be using the fellowship hall for any large gatherings (potlucks, funeral receptions, hall rentals, etc.).
16. The decision to have small groups meet (committee meetings, Bible Studies, work groups, etc.) will be left up to the small group leader, if they can meet safely.
17. Dates have not yet been set for the opening of the church office or for Sunday School for the children and youth.