

COVID-19 Parish Response Team  
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Attn: Annunciation Parishioners

July 3, 2020

Dear Brothers & Sisters of Annunciation Parish:

Greetings. We hope this letter finds you in good health and good spirits during this incredibly challenging moment in time.

As the Annunciation COVID-19 Response Team, we wanted to reach out directly to our parishioners. We share in your longing to resume public worship and accept the Eucharist in communion with one another. We acknowledge the shared fatigue we are all experiencing and long to resume our sacred faith traditions. We also felt it was/is important to share more about our approach to support Father Grogan in his effort to navigate this challenging time.

Leaning on our collective experience as medical professionals, engineers and business owners, we were assembled as parish volunteers to determine when and how Annunciation Parish could safely resume public worship service. We identified three priorities:

- Promote the safety and wellbeing of our fellow parishioners.
- Develop a plan to safely resume worship once the appropriate time presented itself.
- Commit to decision-making grounded in fact based, scientific information and local COVID-19 trends.

Keeping these priorities in mind, the team developed a "Safely Returning to Public Worship" protocol following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations promoting hand hygiene, physical distancing, and mask-wearing.

Once our protocol was developed, the team, along with Fr. Grogan, determined that we could safely resume services on June 28. This decision was also based on the number of newly diagnosed COVID-19 cases. However, the recent spike in the number of COVID-19 cases and hospital admissions in this region gave us pause. We determined it would be unsafe to resume worship. The team continues to monitor local COVID-19 trends to determine when we can safely move forward with resumption of Mass.

We seek perspective and insight as we aspire to guide our parish during this unprecedented time. We welcome your thoughts, feedback and questions. Please feel free to reach out to us at our shared email account [opensafelyabvm@gmail.com](mailto:opensafelyabvm@gmail.com). We welcome an opportunity to connect by email, or alternatively we could gladly schedule a time to correspond by phone or video conference.

Thank you for your patience, grace and understanding as we seek to serve your best interest and those of our diverse parish community. We are grateful now more than ever to be united with you in Christ's love and as fellow Annunciation Parishioners.

In Christ's Love,

The Annunciation Parish COVID-19 Response Team

Gary Brichler, Ron & Annie Hamilton, Susan Hoelle, Teresa Hoelle, Scott Provancher, Sarah Ronan, Beth Shaughnessy, and Robert Turner