



St. Mary's, Hamilton Village

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH AT PENN

3916 Locust Walk, Philadelphia, PA 19104 | www.stmarysatpenn.org

Friday, June 12, 2020

Dear Bishop Gutiérrez,

The St. Mary's Hamilton Village Reopening Planning Committee, made up of vestry members and clergy of the parish, has concluded that we will not pursue reopening our sanctuary for in-person worship until our city and county are in a "green phase" and we can safely accommodate our usual number of worshipers. This means we will revisit our protocols for worshipping safely once gatherings of 75 or more people are allowed in Philadelphia. (Our average Sunday attendance as a parish is 55, but that averages lows of 35 in the summer and highs of 75-80 during the program year, with more on major feasts.)

We will meet regularly as a committee to keep abreast of the recommendations of the state and city governments as well as the University of Pennsylvania and our bishop and will craft our eventual cleaning protocols and plans in accordance with those recommendations. We will also continue to look at infection and hospitalization data with medical professionals on the committee to advise us on the best way of considering those numbers as we make our decisions.

Virtual worship will continue on the current schedule, and we will use this time in between to investigate our options for how best to provide a hybrid online and in-person worship experience once we are able to reopen our sanctuary, as well as prepare a Sunday protocol for eventual reopening when we feel we can do so safely and in the spirit of hospitality that informs our common life as people of Christ.

In Christ,

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