

NOTE OF IMPORTANCE TO PARISHES, CONTINUED

Color System Requirements

- As explained in this document, the following restrictions are in place when a county color appears and is based upon the Harvard University/Brown School of Public Health metrics and coding system. However, NO parish is required to hold in-person services if parishioners feel unsafe. Color coding and what it means to the Church:
- **RED** – If parish COUNTY is **RED** as determined by the Harvard/Brown measures, "in-person" services and functions are not permitted. Online is approved.
- **ORANGE** – If a parish COUNTY is **ORANGE** as determined by the Harvard/Brown measures, the Vestry and Clergy must have discussion and determine if a safe return to 'in-person" services is possible. Stringent protections are to be followed.
- **YELLOW** – If parish COUNTY is **YELLOW** as determined by the Harvard/Brown measures, the Vestry and Clergy are to discuss if they wish to have 'in-person" services. Protections are to be followed.
- **GREEN** – If parish COUNTY is **GREEN** as determined by the Harvard/Brown measures, "in-person" services are permitted, with the same safety protocols outlined above.

FURTHER REQUESTS

I am aware that people want to return to their Church buildings; however, I also am aware that at this time, gatherings of almost any size are opportunities for spread of the Virus.

As Children of God, we are called to protect one another and to care for God's Creation – of which we are all a part. This pandemic will end, just not yet.

I ask your continued prayers for our Church, for our Parishes, for God's People and for all those who have died from COVID-19, those who suffer from it, and those who care for us along the way. We pray for healthcare providers, and the list goes on.

As we look toward a post-pandemic life, let us begin to explore how to utilize the gifts we have developed and discovered during this time. Let us ask ourselves: How do we put into action the tools and talents gained to reimagine new and unique ways to serve God and to do his work? Let's not allow the opportunity to be ignored.

O God,
who doest often lead us
by way of the wilderness toward uncertain difficulties
and futures of which we cannot be sure,
help us to trust always in thy guiding purpose
and in the plan that rules our lives.
When we are fearful and inclined to go back,
give us the courage to stand still
and then go forward knowing
that the strength we need
is the strength we will be given.
(Ferris)