



# Re-Opening Liturgical Services

## Saint Nicholas in the COVID-19 Era

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES

# Campus Closure in the era of COVID-19

- ▶ Since Late March 2020, the St Nicholas Campus has been closed to all liturgical celebrations in recognition of the heightened transmission of the COVID-19 virus in communal settings.
- ▶ Directives from the State of Illinois and the Archdiocese on Parish Activities mandated closure of Church buildings and Parish campuses. In addition, Parish staff and Councils have been performing their work remotely.
- ▶ COVID-19 infection has produced unprecedented rates of inpatient hospitalization and deaths especially in vulnerable populations (the elderly (over 65 years old) and people with chronic medical conditions (eg- diabetes mellitus, chronic lung disease, High blood pressure, chronic heart disease))



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# Parish Reopening Process and Activities

- ▶ All parishes within the Archdiocese have created committees of Parishioners and staff to plan and supervise re-opening activities in a safe and controlled fashion.
- ▶ In all re-opening activities, liturgical rites and physical facility layouts have been adjusted to reflect recommendations from civil and public health authorities to minimize COVID-19 transmission.
- ▶ Re-opening committee members and Parish staff have viewed Parish Re-Opening educational materials to familiarize them with general opening principles and liturgical rite specific adjustments.
- ▶ Volunteers assisting in Parish Re-Opening activities are required to review Archdiocese provided educational materials



# Parish Reopening Process and Activities

- ▶ Phased opening was begun in late May 2020.
  - ▶ Phase 1- Parish facilities have been opened for parishioners to participate in baptism, reconciliation, marriage, and funerals.
  - ▶ Phase 1A- Eucharistic Adoration can be observed in Parish facilities.
  - ▶ Phases 2 and 3- Public Masses with attendance limitations as per civil and public health mandates
  - ▶ Parishes may only continue to the next available opening phase when the Parish staff and Re-Opening Committee have presented a Phase specific plan acceptable to the Archdiocese Re-Opening Task Force.
  - ▶ Parish are certified to enter the next phase when these Phase specific plans are approved by the Archdiocese. Re-Opening Task Force
  - ▶ Saint Nicholas has already held funerals, weddings, baptisms, and reconciliation services while certified for Phase 1/1A



# Parish Reopening Process and Activities

## ▶ Phase 2 and 3 Activities

- 1). Drive up Mass in Spanish was piloted on June 21,2020 at 900AM
- 2). Mass (English and Spanish) In the Chapel are planned for the weekend of June 27-28
- 3). Mass and Reconciliation Reservation Systems are in place for telephone and online access
- 4). Continued Online Liturgies of the Word in English.
- 5). Worship spaces are constantly being evaluated and re-mapped to allow for mandated attendance capacities for each Re-Opening Phase.
- 6). Liturgical Rites are constantly being adjusted to allow for Phase Specific changes

# Parish Reopening Process and Activities

- ▶ Prevailing Re-Opening Principles
  - ▶ **Social Distancing** of Liturgical ministers and attendees
  - ▶ Minimize opportunities for spreading COVID-19 during services
    - ▶ Maintaining **facial coverings** during services and within enclosed spaces
    - ▶ **Adjustment of liturgical rites** and parish customs to minimize interpersonal contact
    - ▶ Creation of **adjusted attendee movement patterns** to minimize interpersonal contacts in enclosed spaces.



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# Parish Reopening Process and Activities

- ▶ Volunteer Roles and Responsibilities
  - ▶ Physical Set up
    - ▶ Creating the physical space keeping in virus transmission mitigation measures
    - ▶ Preparing for liturgical service as directed by Sacristans
  - ▶ Greeters/Ushers
    - ▶ Screening and enforcing indoor facial covering requirements
    - ▶ Directing attendees to specified areas in the worship space.
    - ▶ Facilitating appropriate movement of service attendees
  - ▶ Physical Space Integrity
    - ▶ Maintaining a physical environment that minimizes COVID-29 transmission



# Parish Reopening Process and Activities

- ▶ Volunteer Roles and Responsibilities
  - ▶ Physical Set up
    - ▶ Preparing the pre-set physical layout of the worship space
      - ▶ Replacing any displaced floor decals or spacing /directional tape
    - ▶ Assist the sacristan in preparing the worship space as requested
    - ▶ Making sure that the disinfecting equipment/supplies are replenished and available



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# Parish Reopening Process and Activities

- ▶ Volunteer Roles and Responsibilities
  - ▶ Physical Set up
    - ▶ Entrances
      - ▶ West door (Baptismal Font)
      - ▶ Ramp Door
      - ▶ East door
    - ▶ Exits
      - ▶ North door (Washington Avenue door)
      - ▶ South door (Adjacent to rectory door)



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# Parish Reopening Process and Activities

- ▶ Volunteer Roles and Responsibilities
  - ▶ Physical Set up
    - ▶ Seat/Pews are marked with signs
    - ▶ Bathrooms are not available (unless in an emergency)



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# Parish Reopening Process and Activities

- ▶ Volunteer Roles and Responsibilities
  - ▶ Greeters/Ushers
    - ▶ Prepare the entrances and exits
      - ▶ Keep open the entrance doors
      - ▶ Sanitize the door surfaces
    - ▶ Review attendee list (for services requiring pre-registration)
    - ▶ Greet attendees at the door
      - ▶ Gently reinforce use of face coverings for attendees during the service
      - ▶ Ask screening questions of each attendee
        - ▶ Firmly ask those answering in the affirmative to any of the screening to not enter



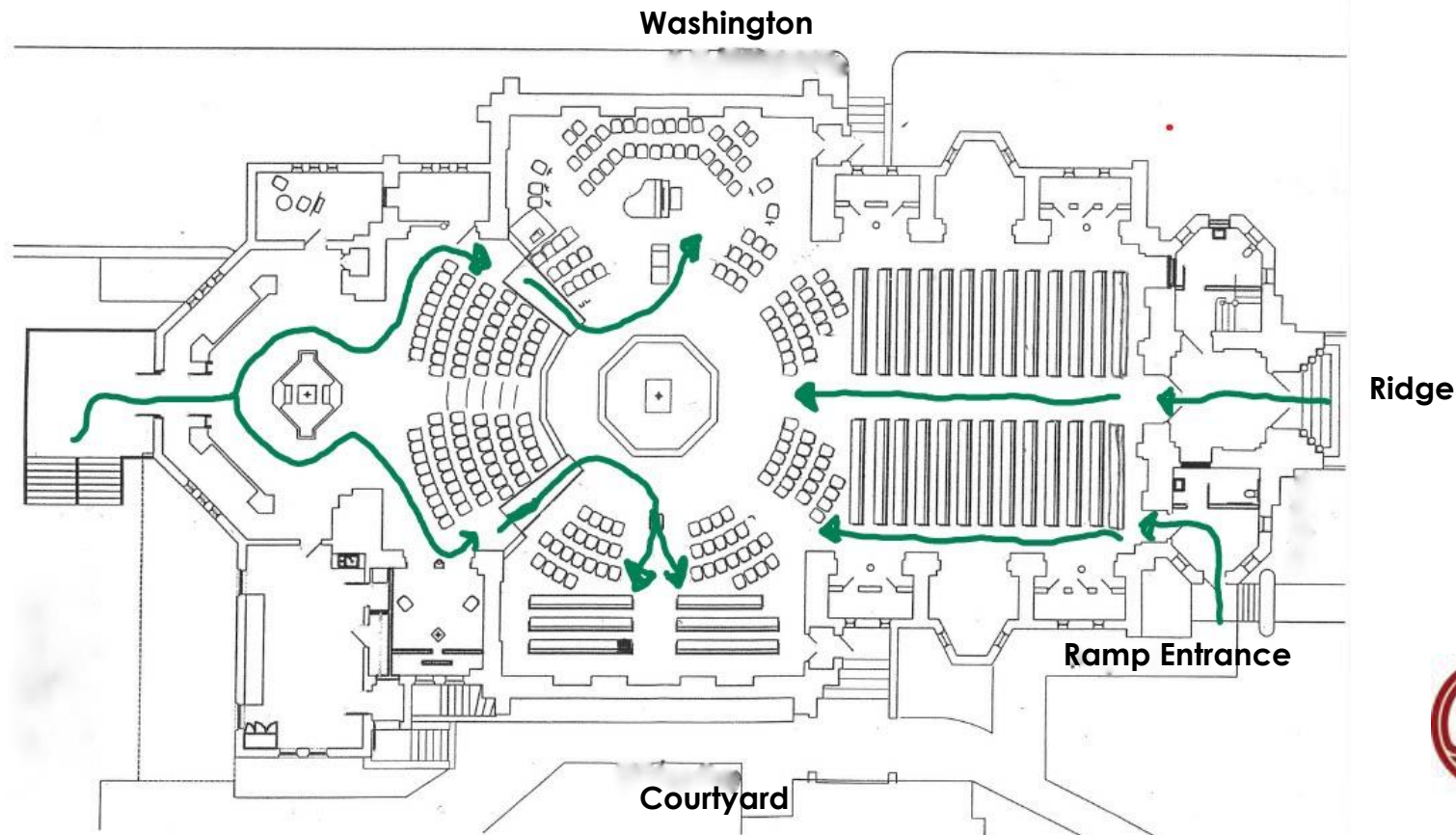
# Parish Reopening Process and Activities

- ▶ Volunteer Roles and Responsibilities
  - ▶ Greeters/Ushers
    - ▶ Individuals/family groups should be escorted to their seats
    - ▶ Attendees should be oriented to entrances and exits
    - ▶ Attendees should be advised regarding floor markings to guide separation and movement



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# Parish Reopening Process and Activities



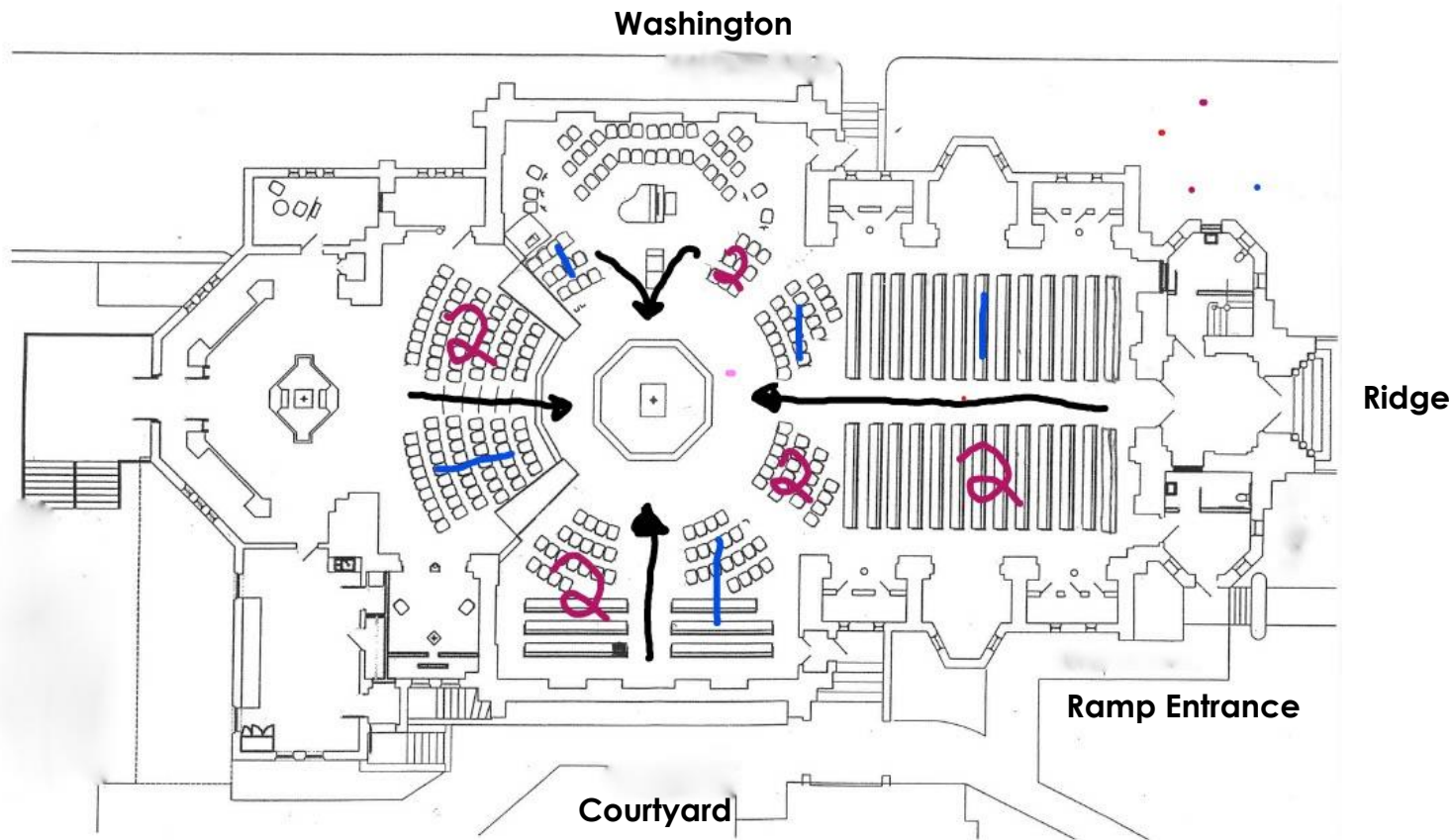
- ▶ Volunteer Roles and Responsibilities
  - ▶ Greeters/Ushers
  - ▶ Movement patterns for

## ENTRANCES



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# Parish Reopening Process and Activities



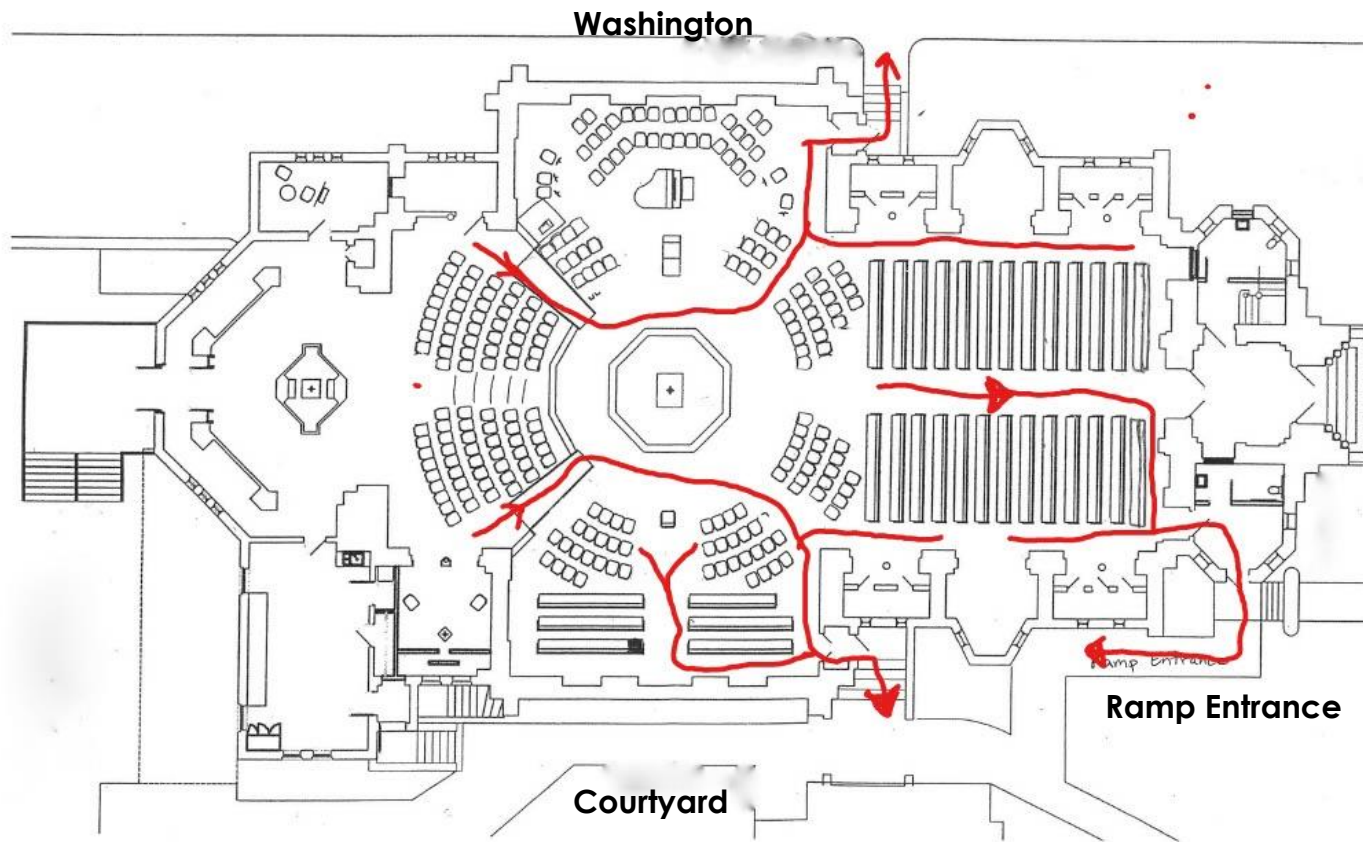
- ▶ Volunteer Roles and Responsibilities
  - ▶ Greeters/Ushers
  - ▶ Movement patterns for **COMMUNION**



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# Parish Reopening Process and Activities



- ▶ Volunteer Roles and Responsibilities
  - ▶ Greeters/Ushers
    - ▶ Movement patterns for

## EXITS



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# Parish Reopening Process and Activities

- ▶ Volunteer Roles and Responsibilities
  - ▶ Physical Space Integrity
    - ▶ Disinfect seats/pews after the end of the service
    - ▶ Spray antiseptic to surfaces touched by attendees
    - ▶ Replace floor decals and spacing/directional tape as needed



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# Parish Reopening Process and Activities

- ▶ Volunteer Roles and Responsibilities
  - ▶ Interaction and overlap
    - ▶ Greeters/Usher may be asked to assist with cleaning and sanitizing as needed
    - ▶ All ministers and volunteers should review the physical space layout before and after your assigned service
    - ▶ Communicate any changes or problems to the Sacristan/Parish Staff for troubleshooting and adjustment of Liturgical protocols as needed or adjustment prior to the next service that day



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# Parish Reopening Process and Activities

- ▶ Thank you for your generous sharing of time and talents in our Parish Re-Opening process.
- ▶ The Parish and the Re-Opening Leadership Team acknowledges that a safe thoughtful return to liturgical life would be impossible without your involvement.
- ▶ Please contact any members of the Re-Opening Leadership Team with your thoughts and comments about how the Parish is moving forward together to revive our communal worship experience.
- ▶ Thank you...Muchas Gracias...Merci... Danke... Salamats...and the hundreds of other ways we express our gratitude at St Nicholas!!!



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# Chapel Photos - Entrances

West Entrance from Parking Lot



East Entrance for Elevator



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# Chapel Photos - Interiors

Enter – Wear a Mask!



Sanitize Hands



Exit –North



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# Chapel Photos - Seating



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