

ON BEING FAITHFUL

GUIDELINES FOR THE WAY AHEAD IN THIS SEASON OF COVID-19

*"Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?"
– The Baptismal Covenant, The Book of Common Prayer*

The Diocese of Southeast Florida has issued guidelines that will govern how Bethesda moves forward through this time of COVID-19. The bishop will need to approve our plans at every stage.

The diocese encourages us to think of the process we will follow as a movement through a series of seasons.

These seasons are fluid. We might move into Season 2, and then back to Season 1 for a time. Even within each season, we'll make incremental changes as the data evolves and as we learn from experience.

This will take time. We can't simply open our doors and go back to the way things were. As the Church, our first priority must be to care for the vulnerable.

The process will be local and data-driven. Bethesda might move into a new season sooner or later than its neighbors.

SEASON

Community Conditions

- Widespread community spread of the virus; local cases are increasing
- Overtaxed health system
- Shortages of medical and protective supplies
- Limited virus testing
- Limited contact tracing

1

Church Requirements

- Online worship
- Online meetings, adult and youth formation, and other group gatherings
- Church buildings closed to the public

SEASON

Community Conditions

- A sustained reduction in new local cases for at least 14 days
- Local hospitals can treat patients without a crisis standard of care
- Everyone with symptoms can be tested
- Contact tracing and active monitoring are in place
- Systems are in place for targeted quarantines as needed

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Church Requirements

- Limited attendance, with reservations required
- Six-foot distance between households
- Face masks required
- Temperature checks before entry
- A visitor log will be kept
- No congregational or choral singing
- No in-person coffee hour or meals
- Adult and youth formation remain online

SEASON

Community Conditions

- No community spread of the virus
- Mass vaccination
- Mass therapeutic availability
- Mass testing for infection and immunity
- Lifting of physical distancing

3

Church Requirements

- Resumption of sustainable normal activities, with a new awareness of our connections and vulnerabilities
- Many activities remain available online to allow those who cannot join in person to participate