



Diocese of Richmond

Rev. Michael G. Boehling
Vicar General
Moderator of the Curia

LETTER OF APPROVAL TO ENTER PHASE ONE

May 23, 2020

Rev. John Asare
Saint Mary
1205 Old Mill Road
Blacksburg, VA 24060

Dear Father Asare,

I offer my gratitude to you and your staff/volunteers for your diligent preparations to discern the appropriate protocols and procedures that are necessary for your parish to enter Phase 1 of Reopening which aligns with the Diocese of Richmond's Emergency Preparedness Instruction Manual 3.0, the Forward Virginia Guidelines and the Governor of Virginia's Executive Order 61.

After a careful review of your proposed plans and submitted Reopening our Parishes (Phase 1) Checklist and upon recommendation from the COVID-19 Task Force, I am pleased to approve your parish, Saint Mary, to move from Phase Zero to Phase One. In Phase One, you may resume offering public Masses following the instructions found in the most recent version of the Emergency Preparedness Instruction Manual.

While this approval has been granted, the restrictions may change at any time based on guidance from Bishop Knestout, government leaders, or health officials which may affect how public Masses or other ministry in your parish is facilitated.

As a reminder, if you are made aware of a positive COVID-19 case, either of a staff member, volunteer, or parishioner who has been on your parish property within the past 14 days, please send an email to prepared@richmonddiocese.org immediately for assistance.

On behalf of Bishop Knestout, thank you for your priestly ministry in these uncertain times. Know of my prayers for you, your parish community, and all of those affected by COVID-19 and those who care for them.

In Christ,

Very Reverend Michael G. Boehling
Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia