

May 16, 2020: A New Model for Forming Community?

Yesterday I worked on a checklist of all the things that need to be in place before we can open up the church for public worship. This list is pretty long and, at this point, we haven't checked anything off of it completely. Several items are well underway but others we haven't even begun yet and time marches on!

In a couple of cases what keeps us from moving forward is that a decision needs to be made and information is still lacking about what is the best way forward. A good case in point is what to do about the assembly's participation at Mass. Up to this point we have used our hymnals, which also contain the readings of the day, as the primary worship aid for the community. But going forward that is not something we can continue. We would have to sanitize all the hymnals after each Mass and that is just not feasible. So, two thoughts are in circulation: to have a disposable worship aid for each Mass, thereby avoiding the need to sanitize the hymnals; or, simply give the hymnals to the people coming to Mass and telling them to take them home with them and bring them back whenever they come church. Basically, the hymnals would be theirs.

It would be helpful to get feedback from the community about which way would work best for you all. The new model for forming community that we are being pushed to incorporate involves seeking meaningful feedback from the "people in the pew" about which course of action is most likely to succeed. For that reason we will be making more regular use of surveys to gauge the community's response. But we need for you all to actually take the survey! There is one circulating at the moment about attendance at Mass. If you haven't responded yet, please do so! We need your input. Here's the link just in case you have misplaced it: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VS3BPJH>