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March 1, 2021

Greetings from St. Mark's in this Holy Season of Lent:

I write with good news. We are preparing to **welcome people again** to worship at St. Mark's, in-person! Currently, we have opened in-person worship at our 11am Thursday morning service. (You can make a reservation to attend on our website under **Online Offerings**.) Months ago, we developed careful and deliberate reopening plans designed to help keep our community safe and healthy. Our plan rests on guidance from the Diocese and the NM Department of Health and the foundation of improving Covid-19 numbers in our area.

Many in our St. Mark's family do feel ready to gather together in the real world now. Are you interested in worshipping in person soon? If so, we are asking for your help to make this happen. Please know we will continue to support hybrid worship for the indefinite future. This means we will introduce the new, limited in-person component of worship alongside the virtual liturgy we have created. The staff, clergy and musicians need the help of lay partners in ministry to make this hybrid worship happen. Safe reopening plans will require:

1. **Welcome and Check-In Team**, who will take temperatures and sign-in the worshippers, while enforcing safety measures and maintaining cleaning measures in the entrance areas.
2. **Worship Stewards (Ushers)** who will help people find their assigned seats, ensure safety protocols are being followed, support worship as needed and maintain cleaning measures in the Nave.
3. **The Worship Support Team (Altar Guild)**, who will set up the altar area for church, clean up afterwards, care for vestments and vessels, much as always.
4. **Our Servants of Worship (Acolytes/Servers)**, who will serve around the altar during the liturgy and put things in order after worship.
5. **A Tech Team**, who will help with the audio/visual equipment and processes necessary for hybrid worship offerings. (Training provided.)

Please fill out the attached survey and return it in the enclosed, self-addressed envelope, or fill out the online version: <https://www.stmarksabq.org/worhsip>. The survey will help us identify the current needs of our parish for in-person worship, and also the availability of the lay people who will help. Please take some time to prayerfully consider whether you could assist a team when the community gathers in-person and online for worship.

We do look forward to worshipping with you in-person again. We wish you continued health and safety as this new year unfolds and brings our community new opportunities.

In the peace of Christ,

Fr. Christopher+  
Rector, St. Mark's

For more details regarding St. Mark's in-depth plan for a safe return to in-person worship, please visit:  
<https://www.stmarksabq.org/news>.