**COVID-19 Newest Updates to Parish Protocols**

In order to combat the surge of coronavirus cases in the state, Governor Wolf has issued updated restrictions. In order to comply with these restrictions, ***indoor gatherings in our parishes are once again limited to 25 people***. Outdoor gatherings may still have up to 250 people in attendance, as long as all other diocesan guidelines can continue to be followed.

Bishop Kevin acknowledges the desire of many to celebrate the Eucharist. The bishop would also like to emphasize that cases of COVID-19 in Pennsylvania have been on the rise, and it is important that each parish take appropriate precautions to keep parishioners, visitors, and clergy safe. Virtual gatherings continue to be the safest alternative. However, for those parishes which have chosen to return to in-person worship, and feel confident in mitigating all potential risks, the following protocols for the celebration of the Eucharist are approved. We are grateful to the COVID task force of the Cathedral of the Nativity for their development and testing of these procedures.

**Trinity Episcopal Church will continue to follow the diocese guidelines for Phase II as listed below:**

**Trinity Episcopal Church - Guidelines for Phase ll**

* Service will be in the large hall and we will utilize our altar table for service.
* Folding chairs will be placed 6 feet apart spread out in the large hall.
* Parishioner will enter via ramp door. A person will be at the door to direct parishioners.
* Hand sanitizer will be available at the door for everyone to use.
* Everyone *must* wear a mask. Masks will be available for those who do not have a mask.
* Parishioner will enter through door at the back of the large hall and be seated.
* Bulletins (which include prayers and readings) will be on each seat.
* There will be no collection by passing the plate. A basket lined with a plastic bag will be at the entrance door of the hall for envelopes and donations.
* The gifts of bread and wine will not be present by parish members but will be placed on a table next to the altar in reach of the priest.
* If the Eucharist is celebrated. Only the priest will consume the Sacred Elements.
* Parishioners will exit through the small hall and out the ramp door.
* The sacred vessel will be cleaned by the altar guild and will be washed with soap and water. Altar linens will be placed in a plastic bag and laundered by a member of the altar guild. Chalice which hold consecrated host and wine, the exterior will be cleaned