

Rt. Rev. Peter Manto

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Dear Synod Registrants,

As I write this letter, we are three weeks away from the Opening Eucharist of our 2020 Diocesan Synod. In anticipation of our time together, I held a meeting with our Standing Committee to discuss any special preparations and procedures that needed to be in place in light of the COVID virus. Here is what we approved:

1. Our synod will be held as planned on October 22-23, 2020, in Mason, Ohio, hosted by Trinity Church. Details and the schedule are available on our diocesan website.
2. After a thorough discussion regarding mask-wearing with our Standing Committee, the members asked me to "make the call." I am therefore asking everyone to wear a mask in the church building during our business meetings, special presentations and services of Holy Communion as well as during Morning and Evening Prayer. I could have required this but rather ask everyone to follow and support me in my conclusion that mask-wearing during our synod sessions is the most prudent course of action for all in attendance. Service celebrants and assistants will not wear masks in the chancel. Anyone speaking during the sessions will not need to wear a mask.
3. Communion will be distributed by intinction. The priest will dip the host into the wine and then place the host into each communicant's waiting hands.
4. There are currently 62 people registered for the synod, a very good turn-out for a difficult year. The Trinity Church building is more than adequate to accommodate this number; however, in light of virus concerns, the Committee asks everyone to respect each other's space.
5. A box lunch will be provided for everyone on Thursday at the church. Attendees can eat at tables in the parish hall, in the pews upstairs, on the front porch or at tables outdoors, weather permitting. Snacks and drinks will be available each day.

6. Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the building. As an extra layer of precaution, several clergy have volunteered to take everyone's temperature when entering the building in the morning.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone. Please pray for our diocese and synod in anticipation of our time together.

Yours in Jesus the Savior,

+Peter Manto