

The following announcement is issued on behalf of the Trinity COVID-19 Ad hoc Committee (TCAC), which has been authorized by the Administrative Council to make necessary administrative decisions during the ongoing pandemic.

On Friday, December 11, 2020, following Governor Charlie Baker's announcements earlier last week about the dramatic recent increase of COVID-19 illnesses and deaths in the Commonwealth, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development issued new mandatory Standards for Places of Worship which take effect today, December 13, 2020. The new standards apply directly to all Massachusetts Houses of Worship, including Trinity. They are far-reaching, comprehensive, and non-discretionary.

Among other mandates, the new Massachusetts standards significantly decrease the number of individuals who will be allowed inside our walls for services and other church business. That is a particularly difficult requirement for a larger congregation, like Trinity. The standards, for the first time, also call for the imposition of significant monetary fines, both for churches and individual parishioners, for violations of the law. In practical terms, the new Massachusetts standards make it impossible for Trinity, and indeed numerous other houses of worship, to continue with in-person services in front of a live congregation, while also ensuring that we comply with the law.

Accordingly, beginning next Sunday, December 20th, we will be instituting the following changes in order to comply with the new Massachusetts standards. Our worship services, including on Christmas Eve, will be available only on-line via live-stream or as a recording, both of which will be accessible through our website and YouTube page. Only worship participants and their immediate family members will be allowed to be physically present in the sanctuary for the actual service; and each one of those individuals will be required to scrupulously adhere to the new standards, without exception. Anyone who is not a worship participant or immediate family member will be able to access the service through the live-stream and recorded options that we have utilized during the previous weeks and months of the pandemic. However, you will not be able to experience the service live and in person.