



# SAGINAW VALLEY CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

## RE-OPENING PLAN AND BEST PRACTICES

A concise guide to the plans and practices for SVCNaz

Submitted by the Pastoral Staff

### On Reopening the Church Building

We recognize that the Church has never been about the building, but about the people of God. Therefore, the Church has never been closed. It has been about the people of God who are committed to “GO & BE” the light and life of Jesus to our neighborhoods and communities. Yet we know that the gathering of God’s people in one place, our building, is an important part of what we do as the Church.

For the past few months, the guidance of our government and our district, for the safety of others, led us to cancel all church services in order to practice social distancing during the COVID-19 breakout. With our state’s “stay at home” order being lifted, our state opening for city affairs, and also with our district’s blessing we feel it is time to prepare adequately and safely for the slow and safe return to worship on **June 14, 2020**. We have done the research, relied on information from our federal, state and local health departments and listened to the hearts of our people, but mostly, we have strived to remain sensitive to the leading of the Lord in the process.

As we return to the building, it is imperative that SVCNaz return with proper patience, understanding, humility and biblical conviction to reflect the image of Christ to each other and the new people that will walk through our doors. As we consider the reopening of the building for activities as we were once accustomed to, it is our recommendation that this be accomplished in four phases.

- The re-establishment of in-person corporate worship experience in the church sanctuary
- The addition of Sunday School classes and increase occupancy
- The addition of and Children’s and Student ministry activities
- The addition of Wednesday night BU classes, GriefShare, ADHD support group, Moms, Craft & Conversation, church family dinners and the use of the facilities by groups outside of the church.

With each of these phases, we want to consider the recommended practices of hygiene, social distancing, the use of masks, and screening upon entrance to the building.

## Phase 1

The re-establishment of in-person corporate worship experience in the church sanctuary

Date: TBD

### Sunday Morning Worship Schedule:

In phase one we hold two services and allow up to 50 people in each service. This will allow for a safe re-entry into the building.

### Service times: 9:30a and 11:30a (1 hour in length)

- Services are for all. Households will be asked to sit together during the service times. Seating will be arranged to accommodate household seating.
- There will be no coffee bar in order to limit the amount of congregating in the foyer
- There will be a Children's message each service until Children's Ministry resumes
- Communion will continue to be serviced on 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday with individually packaged elements.
- Service will continue be livestreamed for those who choose to remain at home

### Additional Phase 1

- Coffee and Conversations will continue for the month of June.
- We reassess every thirty days (or less based on congregational adjustments and Tri-County COVID-19 data) to determine when appropriate to move to next phase.

## Phase 2

The re-establishment of Sunday School classes and increase weekly occupancy

Date: TBD

### Sunday Morning Worship Schedule:

In phase two, we will increase the number of people up to 100. We will determine the number of services based on attendance of previous services.

### Service times: TBD (1 hour in length)

- **We will add one adult Sunday school class and one student ministry Sunday school class**
- Services are for all. Households will be asked to sit together during the service times. Seating will be arranged to accommodate household seating.
- There will be no coffee bar in order to limit the amount of congregating in the foyer
- There will be a Children's message each service until Children's Ministry resumes
- Communion will continue to be serviced on 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday with individually packaged elements.
- Service will continue be livestreamed for those who choose to remain at home

### Additional Phase 2

- We reassess every thirty days (or less based on congregational adjustments and Tri-County COVID-19 data) to determine when appropriate to move to next phase.

## Practices

### Sanitation of our Facilities

Custodial and volunteer teams will be trained on the following practices

- We will clean the sanctuary, foyer and restrooms between services
- Hand sanitizer will be placed at the front entrance to the building for all to use upon entry
- Hand sanitizer stations will be placed at the back of each section of chairs as a convenience
- Hand washing reminders in each of the restrooms
- Sanctuary doors will be propped open to reduce the need to touch door handles
- Drinking fountains will be turned off
- Purchase and install touchless soap dispensers
- Purchase and install paper towel dispensers

## Practices

### Social Distancing

- Arrange sanctuary chairs in groups of two for couples and four to six for families to be spaced at a six foot distance
- Eliminate the “meet & greet” time from the worship service
- Eliminate passing of the attendance registration books
- Substitute the passing of the offering plates with a plate at the sanctuary door staffed with an adult usher
- We ask that all personal visitation time be done outside the building either before or after the services.
- Discourage congregating in conversation groups in the foyer area
- Discourage personal visitation in the sanctuary prior to the start of the service

#### Traffic flow

- The center set of glass doors will be designated as the only means of entrance into the building. People can exit the building by using their body to push against the crash bar of the outside two sets of doors.
- Persons will be asked to keep to the right-hand side of the hallways in the traffic areas

## Practices

**Masks  
(Strongly  
Recommended)**

- **We strongly recommend the use of masks or face coverings when inside the building.** In order for all to feel welcomed and comfortable we will have designated areas for mask wearers and non-mask wearers.
- **Masks will be made available.** We have had masks created by some of our members and received a generous donation for Garber Dodge.
- Leaders of our worship time—singers and speakers—will possibly not be wearing masks. However, they will be at least six feet from each other and more than six feet from the congregation.
- If this arrangement makes you uncomfortable, we invite you to join us via Facebook on Sunday mornings at 11:30a
- We recognize the use of masks is a “hot button” issue for many people. Some people see it as a form of control while others see it as an act of love and consideration of others. We appeal to you to not allow this to be a divisive issue. Mask-wearers should not look upon non-mask wearers as non-caring individuals, nor should non-mask wearers look upon mask wearers as living in a state of fear.
- Masks were never designed to be a guarantee of protection from the droplets of a coronavirus. However, they can help to reduce the possible transmission of the virus. They help to control the source of the spreading of the virus.

## Practices

### Screening

- We will have signage to remind the congregation to self-screening and onsite screening when necessary. We will use the following wording.
  - We first ask that you screen yourselves. If you, or anyone in your household, has been experiencing any kind of respiratory symptoms, then we ask that you consider watching our FB live broadcast.
  - If you are able to attend “symptom-free,” we ask that you allow a designated health professional ask a couple of questions.



## Practices

### Positive COVID-19 Exposure

**If we become aware that someone who has attended an in-person service exhibits COVID-19 symptoms, we will follow these procedures:**

- We will ask the person to stay home and seek medical care if needed. Persons should stay at home for at least fourteen days after symptoms started AND three days after symptoms are improved and fever resolves without the use of fever-reducing medications.
- We will contact local health officials.
- If public health officials determine we need to, we will assist with determining who needs to be contacted for contact tracing.

## Additional

### Items to Address

- We will need to ask Rev. Stockton about preaching two services. There are several things to consider
  - If there is an additional honorarium. The honorarium should not be a double fee but an additional.
  - To avoid the additional honorarium, we could ask him to record message at home and we play it in one service.
  - We suggest that Dr. Stevens make the request, not the board or staff.
- June 21<sup>st</sup>, the Nate and Hope Owens will be doing a video message. They had already planned to visit but cannot travel. It is has been requested the we collect an offering for them

## Appendix

### Resources

1. “Guidelines for Opening Up America Again,” prepared by the White House and CDC, April 2020
2. Interim Guidance for Administrators and Leaders of Community and Faith-Based Organizations to Plan, Prepare, and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/guidancecommunity-faith-organizations.html>. April 2020
3. “COVID-19 Dashboard” Midland County Health Department.  
<https://www.co.midland.mi.us/HealthDepartment.aspx> . June 2020
4. “Coronavirus” Saginaw Public Health Department.  
<https://www.saginawpublichealth.org/coronavirus/covid-19-cases-in-saginaw-county/> . June 2020
5. “COVID-19 Bay County Information and Resources”.  
<https://www.baycountymi.gov/Health/Covid19/Default.aspx> . June 2020
6. “SVCNaz Re-opening survey”  
[www.surveymonkey.com](http://www.surveymonkey.com) . May 2020
7. “Guide to Reopening Church Services: A Step by Step, Biblically-Based and Research-Based Approach to Resuming In-Person Services.” Humanitarian Disaster Institute. April 2020