

St. George's Episcopal Church

COVID-19 Actions



March 13, 2020

Dear Parishioners:

ECMN and individual communities are in the process of determining what is best for each of our communities as we attempt to handle both safe practices in the midst of COVID-19, as well as best Pastoral Care for each person in our communities.

St. George's will have services this weekend as scheduled. Federal, State, and Church recommendations are moving at a "fever" pitch. It is necessary to examine our local church in the light of these recommendations. I will be asking the leadership to examine these recommendations at our Vestry Meeting this coming Monday. There are many moving parts and it's important that all leadership be involved in decisions for the parish. Recommendations have ranged from closing down entire plants, to altering and using alternative services, to cancelling all worship services. Some local parish have already made these decisions. With all the moving parts, I believe we need a bit more lead time to make sure we have covered all the bases.

As I mentioned, I am most concerned not only about the state now and in the near future of our physical health, but how pastoral care can be delivered. As we move forward, the following recommendations will be implemented with more recommendations adapted as needed:

- At the sign of peace we will not shake hands, but bump elbows or wave with a nod;
- Offering plates will not be passed, but placed in the back of the church for your contributions;
- Safe social distance (6 feet) should be maintained during gatherings;
- Communion will be provided in bread form only and received standing in line in the middle aisle. Hand wipes will be provided near the Baptismal Font.

I will address these and other items on Sunday. Also, if you do not feel well or think you don't want to come into a crowd at this time, feel free to stay home. St. Mark's Cathedral will live stream a service at 10:30 this Sunday morning.

Please offer your prayers for the world wide pandemic that now exists as well as for those who are suffering from COVID-19.

God Bless!
Fr. Tom