

Join us as we live out "Real Faith for Real Life" together!



# St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Weekly E-News  
May 7, 2020

## Your Weekly News & Updates

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[Visit Our Website](#)

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# Update on Recent Changes Regarding COVID-19

## "Phases"



When COVID-19 first went viral (*eh-hem*), I suggested that Ash Wednesday had been an excellent primer for a pandemic. After all, remembering our mortality with the ashes put us in mind of our need for our Lord, and for continual repentance. That was ten weeks ago.

Now the spiritual theme has turned from mortality to waiting, waiting to learn when things can go back to normal. Many of you, like me, can't

wait to resume physical, corporate Sunday worship in a space designed just for that.

But it seems we will have to. I know I recently said that we would resume corporate worship on May 17. I thought we would. Turn out we will have to wait longer than that.

In an online conference Tuesday with the clergy of the West Texas Diocese, Bishop Reed informed us that for now, waiting is the most loving thing we can do. Yes, we have a constitutional right to gather, but we also have a calling to love our neighbor as ourselves. He and his staff are watching the reports of active cases throughout the diocese. Bishop Reed will decide when congregations may safely and lovingly resume worship.

Even then, it's possible that St. Mark's won't resume worship at the earliest opportunity.

Why? For two reasons. One, we may not be ready. Our parish leadership needs to first adopt a plan for protection consistent with the diocese protocols. That plan will have to be approved by the vestry and then by the diocese. Once it has been approved, the parish plan and its protocols must be sent to all members at least two weeks prior to our first gathering for worship.

The second reason is this: Corporate worship will be different. It won't look or feel the same. For example, we will be required to maintain a six-foot distance from

each other. Also, there will be no touching whatsoever. Masks will be required. Young children and seniors may be asked to *not* attend. You see how this is going to be? It won't be the same.

In the meantime, we will continue to live in Phase One of this pandemic. In this phase the number of cases are still generally increasing. When Bishop Reed gives the go-ahead, we will move into Phase Two, the time when active cases have dropped for at least two weeks. Phase Three, a vigilant sort of normality, won't come until vaccinations and treatments are widely available.

The prospect of waiting longer is not a happy one for any of us. Yet in the meantime, how might we exhibit a new kind of faithfulness? The answer is to first remember that we the people are the Church. The Church is the people. We are not closed. We *cannot* be closed. We are always open for spiritual business. This is the Church of the Living Lord! And we shall continue our mission of Taking Christ's Ministry to People, Knowing His Spirit Lives, and Bringing Faith to Life.

What opportunities have come your way today? Opportunities to serve, bless, witness, and to pray. Utilize them.

Remember that as a believer in Jesus, He cannot fail you. Claim the peace of Christ, the gift He has given those who love Him. In this knowledge, we can honor what Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Do not let them be afraid." (John 14:27) We can wait.

Waiting is an Advent theme. Just think, whenever we do get to be with one another in the flesh, it'll be just like Christmas, no matter what month.

**Fr. John**

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## Zoom Coffee Fellowship 9:00 am Sunday, May 10

Missing the fellowship of St. Mark's? Others are, too. We are hosting a virtual coffee fellowship for the third Sunday in a row. Please join us this Sunday, May 10, at 9:00 am.

Here's [the link](#) to the Zoom meeting. The password is Gather.

Some of you may be new to Zoom. It's not hard. First, be sure your computer has a microphone and camera. Then click on the link. You will be prompted to allow Zoom to upload or to open on your computer. This takes a few seconds. Then click on the colored button allowing Zoom to use your computer's Audio. Then move your cursor to the bottom of the page where you'll see a button with an icon of a camera. Click on it, and you're ready to go!

In review, 1) click on the link, 2) give Zoom permission to load or open, 3) allow it to use your computer's Audio function, and 4) allow it to use your computer's camera.

Now here are some Rules of Etiquette when you're on a Zoom call.

**People can see you.** So be aware of what you are revealing.

**If you move in front of your camera, viewers will see you,** as if you were walking around the sanctuary during the service.

**If you need to get up and move around, turn off your visual feed and mute yourself.** When you turn off your camera and mute yourself, it tells everyone that you are still part of the meeting but you may have had to step away for a minute. You are not gone and you will be back in the meeting shortly.

**If you actually do leave the meeting and aren't coming back,** please click on 'leave meeting' and your screen will no longer show up in the feed and everyone will know that you have left. (If we still see your screen, we will assume that you are still listening.)

**Beware of sound.**



- Please keep yourself muted when not speaking or in an active conversation. This helps to keep the noise down from incidental sounds..for example, the rustling of papers and blankets or that of dogs barking or kids playing, or conversations elsewhere in your home.
- When you want to speak, hold down the space bar or "unmute" your microphone button.
- Give others a chance to finish their words and then, when appropriate, come back into the conversation.

### **Mute all.**

- The 'Host' of the meeting can 'mute all.' If he or she does, you will not be able to unmute yourself. The Host has to do it. If you get muted, the Host is just making sure that the sound signal is coming through to everyone clearly and that no other signals are trying to compete for sound. You can raise your hand if you want to get the Host's attention.

**Zoom is Free. Get to know Zoom software and how it works.**

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Worshipping online at home with our families has been a wonderful new experience. We're all learning how to worship differently. We have heard some amazing stories of what that looks like for some of our families.

We would love to hear from you about how your family is experiencing your worship time together. Please send your stories to Judy at [judy@stmarksc.com](mailto:judy@stmarksc.com).

The recording of this Sunday's (5/10) service will be sent out via the ENews Saturday. It will also be posted on our St. Mark's Episcopal Church and Kids in Christ Facebook pages and in our St. Mark's Facebook Group before 9 am Sunday morning.

**THANK YOU to ALL who are working to keep us  
worshiping our Lord together.**

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## **This Week with Fr. John**



Fr. John is offering opportunities for you to join him, either through a Facebook Live or Zoom meeting to share a little time together. Here's the schedule:

**Friday May 8, 9 am**-----FaceBook Live with Adults (St. Mark's FB page)  
**Sunday, May 10, 5 pm**-----Zoom with Youth  
**Monday, May 11, 9 am**-----FB Live with Children  
**Wednesday, May 13, 5 pm**-----Zoom with Parents

**Mark you calendars!**

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## **Bible Verse of the Week**

We've started something new for y'all - a verse of the week. It will be a pretty simple verse, usually taken out of the assigned lessons. The purpose of the verse is to give us one idea from God's Word to focus and meditate on each day.



In the ups and downs of your day, remember your verse. Share it with your friends and family. Ask them to think about it how it applies to their situation. Share with them how it applies to yours. Put it into a prayer to God. Even if, for the moment, it may not seem to connect to what's going on in your life, thank God for it. Someday you'll remember it when it does make a difference.

**"Lord, I trust in you alone. Don't let my enemies defeat me." Psalm 31:1**

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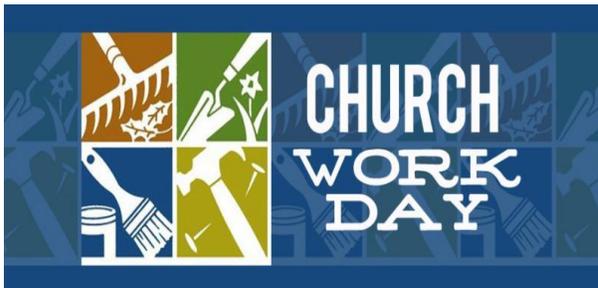
## May Work Evenings Benefit the King's Forest

Workers have been in the King's Forest! A new water well has been dug. And our junior warden, Adam Remlinger, scheduled a few work evenings in May to get a little work done before the heat settles in.

The Porterfield family showed up *en toto* last night, as well as Chase Wilkey, John De Montel, Doug Wayland, Adam, and Fr. John. Some removed and cut down weeds surrounding the water feature. Others worked on giving the baby oaks trees a better home.

Adam is asking that others come out next week to join the fun.

The King's Forest is coming along. But it's dry, dry, dry. Pray for rain, and pray that our water well found water pure enough to put on the trees.



**Put The Next Work Evening on  
Your Calendar:**

**Wednesday, May 13  
7:00 pm-8:30 pm**

### It's me, it's me... Oh, Lord.

If you have a need or concern, please don't hesitate to contact Fr. John or Judy on their cell phones. Fr. John's number is (361) 443-4916 and Judy's is (361) 425-8249. We are happy to take any emergency call at any time. For other requests, we appreciate your calls being made during normal business hours.



Our prayer chain is continuing to pray for any requests that come into the office. You can contact Judy at [judy@stmarksc.com](mailto:judy@stmarksc.com) or call her if you have a prayer need. This group has been praying for everyone in our congregation as well as your families.

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## THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CONTINUE THEIR FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF ST. MARK'S CHURCH!

Even though we are not able to congregate as we normally do, the church still has many expenses. We urge you to give out of faith, thanksgiving, and generosity, and never out of guilt. If you are blessed to be able to give, here are the four ways to do that:

- Online through our website. There is a blue "Giving" button at the bottom of each page. Just click on that and it will take
- you to our online EGiving. You will need to set up a user profile and then you can set up a one-time gift or recurring gifts. You can also give through the "Donate to St. Mark's" link at the bottom of this ENews.
- Through your cell phone using our app, Give+Plus. To get the app, go to the app store and search for "Give+Plus". The icon background is white, the word "Give" is gray and the "+Plus" is a mustard color. Download the app and follow the prompts. You can use it to set up a one-time or recurring gifts.
- Mail in your check to: St. Mark's Church, 2727 Airline Rd, CC, TX 78414. We have a drop-in mailbox that is locked at all times. We will be checking the mail every day, so your check will be secure.
- Drop your check off at the church. Just put it in the locked mailbox to left of the red door at the fellowship hall.



**THANK YOU for helping spread the Kingdom  
through your continuing support of  
St. Mark's Church.**

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## Calendar

### May 8 - Friday

9:00 am - Fr. John Live with Adults--Online--Facebook Page

### May 10 - Sunday

9:00 am - Coffee Fellowship--Online--Zoom Meeting

10:00 am - Morning Prayer Service--Online--Facebook Page

5:00 pm - Fr. John Meets with Youth--Online--Zoom Meeting

### May 11 - Monday

9:00 am - Fr. John live with the Children--Online--Facebook Stream

### May 12 - Tuesday

7:00 pm - Bible Study and Prayer Group--Online--Zoom Meeting

### May 13 - Wednesday

12:00 pm - Elders Meeting--Online--Zoom Meeting

5:00 pm - Fr. John Meets with Parents--Online--Zoom Meeting

### May 14- Thursday

6:45 am - Elders Prayer Group--Online--Zoom Meeting

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## Helpful Links

Below you will find several links to websites or Facebook Pages that you might find helpful.

[St. Mark's Church Website](#)

[Donate to St. Mark's Church](#)

[St. Mark's Church Facebook](#)

[St. Mark's Children's Ministry Facebook](#)

[Diocese of West Texas Website](#)

[Diocesan Newsletter and Reflection Magazine](#)

[Denison Forum--News Discerned Differently](#)