



In light of Monday’s new Diocese directive, <https://edwm.org/coronavirus/#toggle-id-3>, taking us back to phase 1.5, we will remain closed to the public, which is tough news to hear because church is a corporate function not private.

If you are frustrated, I get that. It has been months and we’re still quarantined. But it causes me to think, what is our relationship with church? It’s not “what can I get out of it,” you know, like belonging to a health club, paying dues but yet the club doors are closed and you can’t use the equipment.

Church expresses a *give & receive* relationship, an *offer & blessing* dynamic, it is a living organism, a brick and mortar staple of our faith. Consider how long St Mark’s stood as a beacon of light in our community, how many lives were changed within its walls, symbolizing the strength and tolerance and unity of the gospel. It will continue.

Perhaps the question isn’t “what’s in it for me” but rather “what can I do to help during this difficult time? How can I help keep us together?” Can you send a card to someone, a phone call, a message, some encouragement, join a discussion group, offer a positive opinion on our Facebook forum page, or participate in one of our livestreams to keep us united?

St Marks will survive. We will reopen and rebuild, hopefully this spring! It’s expected that people as well as businesses and organizations will struggle at this time.

We played it safe these past several months, perhaps too safe at times, but it’s easier to look back and critique a situation as opposed to tentatively go through one. I used to know someone who knows someone who has Covid, but now... we have several church members who have or had Covid, and you know what? They can’t say they got it at church.

These next month’s we will do our best to encourage spiritual growth, foster personal connections, engage Scriptures, preach the gospel, and financially support those organizations that help people. We are still the church.

So, let’s work together, stay safe, think deeply, live passionately, and not look back, but forward to *the good* God will bring out of this mess. That will be our message. If we remain faithful, victory and thriving and flourishing will once again fill our building.

fr rick



This Saturday is **workday** at church. We will be doing fall clean up of leaves and other items.

Come and enjoy the work and time outside with fellow parishioners.

Invitation To Join A Small Group Discussion During Advent.

Last summer a small group of us started meeting bi-weekly on Zoom to discuss the Way of Love. We are using podcasts and discussion guides available from the Episcopal Church web site. You can find them here:

<https://wayoflove.episcopalchurch.org/episodes/season/1>

Even if you can't join us, I encourage you to try some of these podcasts.

We finished Season One and have now started Season Two.

For Advent season, we are going to take a short break from Season Two and discuss the Way of Love 4-Part Advent Series. We would like to invite others to join us. We will meet at 5:30 pm on Zoom each Tuesday beginning December 1. You can find the videos and discussion questions here:

<https://episcopalchurch.org/journeying-way-love>

Please email Barb Hantz (Barbara.hantz@gmail.com), Diane Pridgeon (dianesmithpridgeon@gmail.com) or Kathie Bappert (kbappert@gmail.com) if you want more information or would like to join us. We have found it a great way to stay connected while deepening our faith.



Carolyn Dantes 11/23

Craig Dally 11/27

Sunday-Full Episcopal worship service, including music and Eucharist at the Washington Cathedral, posted on cathedral.org

Please note:

Our Facebook video times have changed:

- The Liturgy of the Word - 10:00 a.m. via St. Marks Public page (not the Forum)
 - * <https://www.facebook.com/StMarksColdwater/>
 - Wednesday Morning Prayers – 9:30 a.m.
 - Saturday Bible study - 1:00 p.m.
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Sunday Coffee Hour on Zoom!

Join us on Zoom each Sunday at **11:00** for a virtual coffee hour.

Please contact **Anne Davidson** for Zoom information.

