

# Rector's Update – April 3<sup>rd</sup>

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Greeting to the saints of St. Paul's,

Wherever there are challenges, God provides His people with opportunities. Most of us see a challenge with sharing the Gospel while we're sitting in our homes (when we're not giving the dog yet another walk). Yet many are doing precisely that. Many have now found the time to call friends and neighbors who we've thought about, but not called. Facebook and other social networking have crackled with life and commentary. My wife gathered some of the ladies in our neighbor for a front yard wine chat (with greater than 6' distance between each lady). These communication venues give us the opportunity to share faith rather than fear and hope rather than doubt. We have great things share!

Here's my weekly update (with some duplication from last week)

- Our Sunday services improve each week, and we got a lot of complements from how things went in lighting, flow, and sound last week. Our tech team (i.e. The Faunce family, Laura Funk, and Mark Walsh) are great! We'll continue to offer the service via Facebook and YouTube as live streaming (with recordings and an MP3 of the sermon posted on our website later).
- For Holy week, we'll have a Good Friday service that will be broadcast at noon on Facebook and YouTube. The E-pistle will have some additional family devotions, and if you'd like to see other services during Holy Week in the Diocese of Dallas, both Incarnation (<https://incarnation.org/digital-worship/>) and the Cathedral (<http://www.episcopalcathedral.org/>) have additional services.
- Bishop's sent the clergy in the Diocese his expectation that "we will remain in the present mode of remote worship, meetings, and pastoral care throughout April and well into May." It's this Rector's hope and expectation that we be back in the church building for a blow-out service on Pentecost (May 31<sup>st</sup>).
- Our parish office has closed, and we are working from home. The Bishop (and Hunt County) have asked that our parish office close until at least April 4<sup>th</sup>. I expect this will be extended through the end of the month, at least. We will be checking parish voicemails remotely, responding to emails, and meetings will be done via conference calls and videoconferencing.
- If you need to get with me for a meeting, I'm available to schedule one for a phone or video call. Probably the best email is [fathernickfunk@gmail.com](mailto:fathernickfunk@gmail.com).
- Pastoral Care is being done via phone and videoconferencing. Face-to-face pastoral calls are only done in dire situations, and by the Rector only. If you have needs, please email or call – we can help!

- Zoom videoconferencing has been the major provider for videoconferencing in the Diocese, and St. Paul's is using it regularly. The St. Paul's Zoom Meeting may be found at <https://zoom.us/j/9037772020> and our Meeting ID is: 903 777 2020. That's the same meeting information as I use for my scheduled meetings.
- We are offering Noonday Prayer on Wednesdays at noon, the 'Bible and Breakfast' Bible Study at 8:00 on Friday morning (though NOT on Good Friday), and the Sunday Coffee Hour after service via a Zoom meeting. My apologies for messing up last Wednesday's service on Noonday. I accidentally hit Do Not Disturb and made it so that no one could join into the Noonday service. I'm still learning how to do this, and I'll try to do better!
- Our old John Deere mower is fixed and prepped for sale. We'll be purchasing the new one soon.
- The roof leak in the Parish has kitchen leak has been temporarily plugged, and the fix is holding.
- St. Paul's Episcopal School has reopened for the children of Essential Personnel. We expect to have about 20 students next week, compared with our normal enrollment of over 80. We've paid all the teachers and staff their normal pay for two weeks, despite the school having negligible income, and most employees working minimal hours. This week, we began a rotation of teachers and staff, and are continuing to work to pay them at a rate that they can live on and keep the school functioning longer.
- We've explored how to access funds from the CARE stimulus bill to cover payroll for the school, and perhaps the church.

We're in a great time to live out the Gospel by reaching out to our neighbors in love, and reveal the peace that Jesus offers while many in the world panic in fear. See y'all on Sunday!

Peace,

Fr. Nick