

Finding Wisdom during a Pandemic

Adapting at St. Michael's to the Reality of Covid-19

UPDATE 5 – July 8, 2020

Greetings everyone,

This update will be brief. I have two things to share.

First, the last update suggested July 12 as a possible Sunday to begin in-person worship services. That date was an optimistic one, as we hoped that the situation might improve nationally and locally in regard to Covid-19 cases. Unfortunately, the opposite has happened. Continued public interaction, I fear, is only going to push the numbers in a poor direction. Because of this, and because I do not want our worship services to contribute to the spread of this virus and the disease it causes, I am back to square one. I do not see us having in-person worship services for the foreseeable future. I will, of course, continue to monitor the situation with the help of our lay leaders. For now, we will continue to have worship through our live streaming capability on our YouTube channel, including what some are calling “spiritual communion,” a liturgy in which we celebrate the Eucharist without anyone partaking of the bread and wine. We will also use online capabilities like Zoom this fall for formation/discussion groups. Keep an eye out for those.

Second, I need to let everyone know that I have most likely contracted Covid-19. My family was exposed last week. My symptoms arrived on schedule on Sunday evening—mostly minor with the exception of considerable fatigue. I am in the process of getting tested, but the lines are long. I'll keep you posted. For the short term, I am exceedingly grateful for the ministry of Fr. Shawn Streepy, Fr. Don Compier, Deacon Suzi Drury, and Deacon Monte Giddings, who have been tremendous support. They will continue to provide leadership in worship. I am also grateful to Dr. Ken Walker, Diana Mullin, Marie Coker, Derek Dobbels, George Harter, and others who continue to help make worship possible online. You do not see most of them on camera, but their contributions have been essential.

God's blessings to all of you,
David