



A letter from St. John's

St. John's Episcopal Church
750 Aurora Ave
Naperville, IL 60540

Dear Parish Family,

You are all in my prayers as I hope that I and our parish staff are in yours. This past week things have been rapidly evolving and still are. It is my intention to follow up my letter sent last Friday (March 13, 2020) with spiritual resources for congregational members. Within a couple of days there will be resources and audio chats available from me on our website. I, along with the admin staff are working on multiple projects from cleaning and sanitizing the church building, to attending to the needs of our parish, to developing resources for home/virtual worship as well as taking care of ourselves and our families. We are all experiencing the weight of this situation and are doing the best we can. Please pray for our Bishop, Diocese, parish, staff and for me.

In the meantime, for continued prayer and spiritual strength please refer to the online resources:

Sermons & Messages from Pastor Verna Fair, Rector of St. John's:

<https://stjohns-episcopal.com/ministries/resources/sermons/>

Book of Common Prayer

http://justus.anglican.org/resources/bcp/formatted_1979.htm

Daily Office Lectionary: <http://www.lectionarypage.net>

Washington National Cathedral Sermons &

Podcasts: <https://cathedral.org/worship/service-archive/>

Living Compass: <https://www.livingcompass.org/lent-readings>

Living Well Through Lent: Continue using the hard copy obtained from St. John's before Lent. If you need a copy, you may obtain a digital copy for the Kindle through Amazon.com. This Lenten resource is an excellent devotional and is very timely. The Lenten Season theme is Courage. Truly courage is what we need right now. You will find it very spiritually insightful and encouraging.

I recommend reading your Bible. Reading and meditation on scripture is a way to keep our eyes focused on God. We are able to remember that "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble (Psalm 46:1). If you need a place in scripture to start, begin with the Book of Psalms. This book deeply expresses the human condition in many different situations. I always found Psalms to be a way to express our humanity while also being enveloped in the arms of God.

A friend recently shared this inspirational and faith-filled version of COVID-19 acronym

C - Christ

O - Over

V - Viruses &

I - Infectious

D - Diseases

19 - Joshua 1:9 (" 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.")

There will be more resources coming in the near future. Thank you for your prayers, kindness and patience with everyone.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, we look to you now in this time of great challenge and international crisis. We know that through our many years of faithful prayer and worship as the Body of Christ, you have prepared us for such a time as this. Thank you for your presence and the help of the Holy Spirit. We trust you in this time of great uncertainty. We know you are caring for and watching over us and over all who are in need of your loving strength. Help us to put into practice Galatians 5:22-23a "22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control"(NIV). Help us, as the people of God, to show others your love by what we say and do. Let us be conduits of your grace in this time and in a world that so desperately needs it.

In your most Holy Name we pray.

Blessing and Peace,

Pastor Verna+