

March 11, 2020

Dear St. James' Parishioners,

With the ever changing climate regarding the covid-19 virus, reactions and precautions are continuing to evolve. Earlier this evening, our bishop, Marc Andrus, requested that **all worship services in the Diocese of California be cancelled for the month of March**. Obviously, this is an unusual step to take, but one that speaks to the Diocese's concern for all of the faithful members of our churches.

In the next few days, your clergy and staff will be meeting to discuss ways to keep us all connected through virtual worship and pastoral connection. Please be patient as we put options in place. As soon as we have something to offer, I will make sure it is communicated.

Along with postponing worship services (both Sunday and Wednesday), I am asking that **any gathering of over 15 participants or with a significant amount of at risk participants be postponed or cancelled as well**. This would include our Tuesday evening Lenten program. If you are unsure whether or not a group will be meeting, please contact the ministry leader directly.

Sunday school families should keep their eyes open for further communication from our Children and Teen Minister, Jan Scrutton. She will be contacting you directly.

As an aside, some of you know that I have lived with asthma for most of my life. This puts me in a high risk category. My situation is complicated with Ron's cancer, putting him in a high risk category as well. To that end, Bishop Marc had requested that I not participate in larger gatherings in order to preserve my and Ron's health. The concern is eliminated with worship being cancelled for March. However, if the virus does not significantly subside by April, it is possible that I may still need to take precautions beyond this month. I will be sure to communicate with all of you, and if I do need to spend a little more time away from larger gatherings, will ensure that the parish is cared for both administratively and pastorally.

I give thanks for the strength of our community and our faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. Our ties with one another stretch across time and space, and while we cannot worship together for the time being, we continue as One Body, knit together in love and fellowship.

Please do not hesitate to contact me, either through phone or email, with any concerns or questions.

I remain faithfully yours,

Lori+