



ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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March 13, 2020

My Dear Friends:

Bishop Eaton closes Diocesan Churches and Institutions due to COVID-19 Virus

On Friday, March 13, after consultation with the Deans of the Deaneries, Bishop Eaton announced that all churches, schools, and other institutions in our Diocese will be closed with immediate effect until March 30, 2020, as a result of the rapidly spreading COVID-19 coronavirus. Further evaluation concerning this pandemic will determine whether the closure will be extended until April 4. We have also heard that all schools in Florida are now closed until after Spring break.

Our Diocese joins with other dioceses, including Washington, Virginia, Delaware, Southern Virginia, California, Easton, just to name a few, in announcing closures off their respective dioceses. The closure of all churches in the Diocese means that, all services, meetings, and activities, at All Saints' are cancelled until March 31. This includes:

- Sunday services, beginning this coming Sunday, March 15
- Wednesdays Healing Services
- Church Office will be closed and you will be informed as to when it will reopen
- Choir Practice
- All organizational, committee, and group meetings and activities

I am sure this decision was made with a heavy heart, but realizing it is the best decision to be made at this time as we seek to be caring and loving faith community. As Americans and Christians, we need to do all in our power to help assist in stopping the spreading of this pandemic. This means that we will have to make changes and decisions that may be challenging but important to our livelihood and communal relationships.

Although, we cannot gather for worship, I invite you to remain constant in prayer at this most difficult time, both privately and with your families, especially on Sundays. I hope you will use this opportunity to pray for those who are ill, those who have died, and for those who mourn, as a result of losing loved ones due to this pandemic. Please also pray for an end to this virus.

The Reverend Anthony B. Holder, D. Min., *Rector*
The Reverend Alan Gellert, *Deacon*

Although we may be physically distant from each other, let us through our love and care ensure that no member of our church and beyond feels isolated...give them a call, send them a text message or email, check on them to ensure they are well. I also hope that through our digital and social media we will be able to connect with you through our email announcements, our Facebook page, and website.

Please take good care of yourselves and remember to pray for me as I continue to uphold all of you in my prayers. Should you need to reach out to us, please communicate with our Senior Warden, Paul Neff, at 561.301.4593 (mobile) or by email: pen55@me.com

With love and affection for you and your families, and God's richest blessings.

Your Friend and Pastor,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony" followed by a small cross symbol.

Father Tony