

In Response to COVID-19

Updated March 18

In light of conversations with our Bishop, the Wardens and Vestry, my clergy colleagues and staff, and the President's urging of gatherings of no more than 10 people, Holy Faith will suspend all public services of worship effectively immediately and until further notice. We expect to livestream a service of Holy Eucharist without an in-person congregation beginning this Sunday. More details will be forthcoming. In addition, the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) offers many opportunities for you to worship at home, such as daily Morning Prayer (BCP p. 37 or p. 75), Evening Prayer (BCP p. 61 or p. 115) and daily Devotions for Individuals and Families (BCP p. 136), with the accompanying daily lectionary readings beginning on BCP p. 955 (we are currently in the week of Lent 3, Year Two). There are also innumerable on-line resources, including Holy Faith's own link to the Daily Offices (<https://holyfaithchurchsf.org/services/the-daily-office/>) and Stations of the Cross (<https://holyfaithchurchsf.org/the-way-of-the-cross-2/>), and the Diocese of the Rio Grande's links as well (<https://drgresponds.squarespace.com/resources>). Lent is a season of fasting, and we now are given an opportunity to slow down, become more contemplative, and develop deeper spiritual practices.

Other gatherings at Holy Faith will continue to be suspended indefinitely pending ongoing review of the changing situation. This means that there will be no Coffee Hours, Forums, Children's Chapel, Sunday School, Bible studies, study groups, Lectio Divina, Body and Soul classes, Rosary Group, art classes, choir rehearsals, observances of the Stations of the Cross, Lenten soup suppers, Women's Guild gatherings, Daughters of the King meeting, Men's Lunch, or non-essential in-person committee meetings

During this national health crisis, we want to maintain community as best we can. We plan to have the office staffed each weekday with a clergy person and/or staff person to continue Holy Faith's ministries, field telephone inquiries, and keep the chapel open for private prayer. Of course, we are each available by e-mail as well. As you reflect on where is God for you in all this, we want to hear from you and find out what you need. In addition to the clergy and Lay Eucharistic Visitors, Faith Family will continue to provide pastoral support, especially to those who are homebound or in need of meals or supplies. If you have any need, or would like to volunteer with Faith Family's efforts, please be in touch with Fr. Jim. If you are able, please check in with one another, preferably by telephone. Let your fellow parishioners know that you are thinking of them and praying for them. The lesson shared by this is how connected we all are through the Holy Spirit as the Communion of Saints in time and space.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in implementing these precautions as we focus on loving our neighbors as ourselves. The health of our community and the slowing of the spread of COVID-19 are of paramount importance. With God's grace, mercy, and power, together we will pass through this time of uncertainty. Please pray for an end to COVID-19, for all those who have contracted this novel coronavirus, and for the repose of the souls of all those who have died from its effects.

Yours faithfully in Christ,
Fr. Robint

A Prayer for Quiet Confidence (BCP p. 832)

O God of peace, who hast taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and confidence shall be our strength: By the might of thy Spirit lift us, we pray thee, to thy presence, where we may be still and know that thou art God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.