



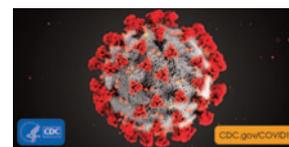
st. mary's messenger

SPECIAL EDITION: March 19, 2020

COVID-19 News

St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Dousman, Wisconsin

LATEST UPDATE: Changes at St. Mary's due to the Covid-19 Pandemic (Coronavirus) (as of 3/19/2020)



With all the changes from the social distancing and quarantining, we will have a more frequent newsletter to communicate updates to the parish.

Easter Offering

Whenever we return to Sunday services in the church, we will celebrate an Easter celebration with Easter hymns, readings, etc. The plate offering from that Sunday will be divided up between our three Easter Offering designees.

Lent Outreach

Since it is difficult to drop off items for the Watertown Humane Society at the moment, we will collect items for three Sundays after we return to worship in the church. This should allow us to support the Watertown Humane Society while following the guidelines from our Bishop.

Book Sale & Strawberry Fest

At the moment, these are both still scheduled for their normal times.

Vestry Phone Calls to Parishioners

The Vestry is going to try to call everyone in the next week to check in. Specifically, we want to make sure that people who would like to participate in online church are able to do so, and also to ask what needs people might have that volunteers from church could help meet. For instance, if someone needs help with grocery shopping we could try to match them with a parishioner willing to pick up some groceries. Of course, you don't need to wait for a phone call. You can always contact **Mother Pippa** at motherpippa@milwpc.com or (651) 341-9629 or **Lynn** at stmarys@milwpc.com.

Discretionary Fund

If you feel able to donate, I expect the Discretionary Fund will be in high demand in the next few weeks. Please remember that these funds are available to parishioners as well if you need help. It is also helpful for me to have gift cards on hand for groceries and gas. Thank you to the Vestry for approving an immediate transfer of \$2,000 into the discretionary fund.



Worship Online*

As the Bishop letter states, we are closed for public worship until further notice. The Bishop is holding weekly meetings with the clergy to keep us up-to-date, but it is very likely that our Holy Week services will be celebrated online. While I realize that is heart-breaking, it is important that we keep everyone healthy and safe. Whenever we return to worshipping at St. Mary's, we will celebrate that first Sunday as if it were Easter Day. (*See page 2 for info on how to attend worship online.)



Rector's Update

I am a bit under the weather at the moment, I don't know if it's Covid-19 or not, but I am acting as if it is and avoiding physical contact with everyone. I am not very sick – I am a bit fatigued with a tickle in my throat and a dry cough. Still, I want to act with an overabundance of caution and so will be conducting pastoral care remotely at the moment.

How to Attend Online Worship

Last Sunday was St. Mary's first online service. If you did not attend, this is what you need to do to attend on your computer, tablet or smartphone.

If you have Facebook on any of those devices, you can watch the service live by clicking this link:

www.facebook.com/St-Marys-Episcopal-Church-670614162955490

If you do not have Facebook, you can watch live using the app called **Zoom**. You can get Zoom (it's free) by downloading it clicking the appropriate link below:

Google Play Store (non-Apple products)
<https://play.google.com/store/apps>

Apple Play Store (only Apple products, iPhone, iPad...)
<https://www.apple.com/ios/app-store/>

Once the app has opened on your screen, click on "Join a Meeting" and enter your name. In the space above your name enter the link for the service you wish to attend. The links you need are all listed in the box at right.

After you have attended the service the first time in Zoom, it will be saved and all it will take to use it is a simple click.

If this column was more confusing than helpful, I'm sorry!
(Kathy)

For assistance, please contact **Mother Pippa** at motherpippa@milwpc.com or (651) 341-9629.

**Watch for
additional
newsletters
from St. Mary's
with updates
as things
change.**

Clickable Links For Sunday Worship Services

Sunday Service at 8 a.m. via Zoom
<https://zoom.us/j/700237041>

Sunday Service at 10 a.m. via Zoom
<https://zoom.us/j/444846950>

Sunday Service (either service time) via Facebook
www.facebook.com/St-Marys-Episcopal-Church-670614162955490

Clickable Links For Weekday Events

Wednesday Morning Prayer at 9 a.m. via Zoom
<https://zoom.us/j/708675077>

Wednesday Morning Book Group at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom
<https://zoom.us/j/530110377>

Wednesday Evening Prayer at 6 p.m. via Zoom
<https://zoom.us/j/942283762>

Bible Study on First Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom
<https://zoom.us/j/929748848>

Stewardship News

While we are worshipping online instead of being together in church, we want to make sure that our staff and building are taken care of. And since we can't pass the offering plate through the computer during the online service, we will have to use the mail! Whether you officially pledge or not, (maybe you contribute regularly but just don't have pledge envelopes), there are two options:

- ① **Mail** your offering to the church (no cash please!), and make sure to use your pledge envelope (or include a note with your name) to get credit for your contribution. Mail to this address:
St. Mary's Episcopal Church
P.O. Box 126
Dousman, WI 53118
(Don't use the street address because we won't get it!)
- ② Switch over to **online giving**! Go to our website <https://stmarys-dousman.com/> and click the word "Donate" at the top right. This will take you to a screen where you fill out a simple form. It's easy and safe and a very versatile way to donate. You can give with a credit card or through your bank; you can give once or repeatedly; you can give to the general fund or to another special collection. And once you give the first time, you can create an account for future giving if you'd like. Questions? Please contact **Mother Pippa** at motherpippa@milwpc.com or (651) 341-9629.

A Letter from Bishop Miller (dated 3/17/2020)

To the Clergy and People of the Diocese of Milwaukee

Dear Friends in Christ,

Grace to you and peace in this holy yet most unusual season. We live in a time that requires more of us than most of us could have imagined.

I write you today as your bishop, chief pastor and canonical overseer. With the direction from the Center for Disease Control to limit gatherings to no more than ten people, I am directing the clergy and churches of the Diocese of Milwaukee to suspend public worship indefinitely. On March 31, I will reassess this situation in light of developments and give directions for the future. We fully expect that this closure will remain in effect through Holy Week and Easter, and that our traditional gatherings for that season will be canceled or postponed until the time of social distancing can be ended. This also extends to the following:

- No funerals may take place and must be postponed to a later date. Clergy may officiate at graveside services, being cognizant of the number of attendees. When possible, interments should be postponed to a later date.
- No groups of more than 5 may meet in our churches. An exception is given to 12-Step programs that meet in our buildings. If possible, 12-step meetings should meet in larger rooms that allow more distance between people.

These directives apply to all our congregations, clergy and licensed lay ministers.

Please know that it pains me to make this decision, but I believe it is for the best of all. Loving our neighbor requires giving up for the sake of others. Even if we are in a low-risk group, our thoughts and concerns as followers of Jesus must be our desire to limit the spread to the most vulnerable. Something which at this point only time and social distancing may provide.

Earlier today I met with many of the diocesan clergy in a Zoom video-conference to discuss creative ways to minister and be the church in a time such as this. As always, the creative gifts of our clergy community were freely and graciously offered to one another. We discussed ways of offering online worship and formation. In addition, the diocese has expanded its capacity to host online meetings through Zoom. As this crisis continues to unfold, I will be meeting with the clergy weekly in Zoom conference.

I am well aware that this time may cause some economic hardship in our congregations. I encourage you to continue to meet your pledge commitments to your parish and give faithfully and generously to those in need. I ask that parishes observe the following hierarchy of expenditures: clergy and staff payroll, necessary expenditures and then the diocesan assessment.

As I prepared to write this letter, this thought came to my mind. Over recent years what is considered regular attendance at worship has shifted from every Sunday to bi-monthly or even monthly for many. Could it be that this necessary fast from public worship will give us a new appreciation for our parish communities and the joy of worshipping together freely? That is my prayer.

Please know of my prayers for you all as this pandemic unfolds. Pray for all who are most vulnerable, especially the poor, the elderly, the immuno-compromised and all members of the health care profession.

Grace to you and peace.

+Steven

The Rt. Rev. Steven Andrew Miller
Bishop of Milwaukee

Covid-19 Symptoms

The following symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure.

- ✓ **Fever**
- ✓ **Cough**
- ✓ **Shortness of breath**

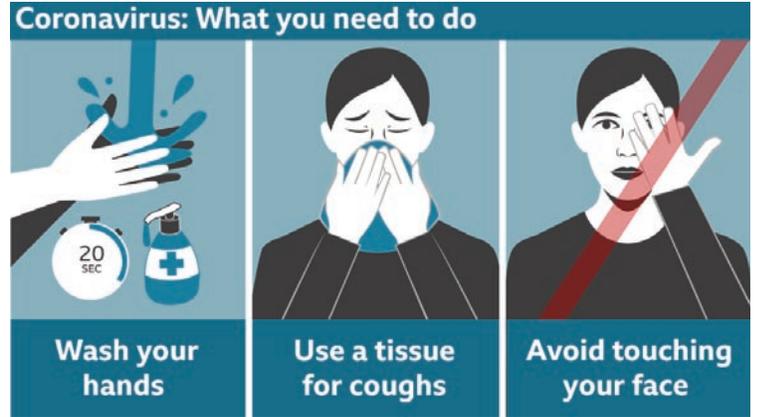
If you develop emergency warning signs for COVID-19 get medical attention immediately.

Emergency warning signs include*:

- ✓ **Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath**
- ✓ **Persistent pain or pressure in the chest**
- ✓ **New confusion or inability to arouse**
- ✓ **Bluish lips or face**

*This list is not all inclusive. Please consult your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning.

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>



Keeping the home safe

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/workplace-school-and-home-guidance.pdf>

Encourage your family members to...

All households



- Clean hands at the door and at regular intervals
- Create habits and reminders to avoid touching their face and cover coughs and sneezes
- Disinfect surfaces like doorknobs, tables, and handrails regularly
- Increase ventilation by opening windows or adjusting air conditioning

Households with vulnerable seniors or those with significant underlying conditions



Significant underlying conditions include heart, lung, kidney disease; diabetes; and conditions that suppress the immune system

- Have the healthy people in the household conduct themselves as if they were a significant risk to the person with underlying conditions. For example, wash hands frequently before interacting with the person, such as by feeding or caring for the person
- If possible, provide a protected space for vulnerable household members
- Ensure all utensils and surfaces are cleaned regularly

Households with sick family members



- Give sick members their own room if possible, and keep the door closed
- Have only one family member care for them
- Consider providing additional protections or more intensive care for household members over 65 years old or with underlying conditions

What every American and community can do now to decrease the spread of the coronavirus