



St Francis Episcopal Church

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Dear friends of St Francis parish,

“We are in this together” are the closing words used by the Presiding Bishop, +Michael J. Curry, as he addressed the House of Bishops online yesterday. They met via laptops and computers rather than in person.

“We are in this together” are the words I have proclaimed since the day I began to be your servant leader of this beautiful family of God. Those words are more important now than ever as we face the worldwide coronavirus pandemic. May the health and strength of one another come from the deepest place of trust in the power and grace of God...with love for you, Paula+

The following is from The Bishop’s Office of + John Harvey Taylor:

The most important thing to remember is that the virus is not believed to be airborne. It is spread by contact with surfaces on which respiratory droplets have landed. Therefore, the following practical steps significantly reduce risk of exposure and transmission.

- When feeling ill, stay at home, and seek medical attention.
- **Wash hands vigorously** and often for at least 20 seconds.
- **Avoid shaking hands or embracing.** Keep your distance. Bow or wave to one another when saying hello or passing the peace.
- **Refrain from touching surfaces and then touching your face**, especially the nose, eyes, and mouth. Cough or sneeze into the crook of your arm.
- Disinfect tabletops, doorknobs, and other surfaces frequently. **Those offering hospitality before and after church should wash their hands thoroughly and frequently immediately before setting out literature, making coffee, and preparing refreshments.**
- Follow the bishop’s directive temporarily suspending the use of the common cup, either for sipping or intinction, during all communion services within the Diocese of Los Angeles. At great cost, our reformed forebears won the right of the cup for the sake of the laity. For the time being, we offer it up as a sacrifice in Christ for the sake of our neighbor.
- **Those offering services should wash their hands thoroughly and apply alcohol-based hand sanitizer at the beginning of all services and again during the offertory.**
- **Ensure that persons handling food wash hands frequently and wear gloves and use tongs while serving.**
- Check regularly on parishioners who have been absent from church, especially older folks and others with pre-existing conditions.
- Pray regularly for all affected by this and all illnesses, for medical and research professionals, and for all those in civil and ecclesial authority.

With love and care for you all,

Paula+