

## SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

From St. Mark's, via Zoom, we will have our Seventh Sunday of Easter service at 10:00 a.m. on May 24h. The Worship Leaflet for this service can be found at [https://e30ee03c-4cc4-4641-8ffb-9170a37a24a7.filesusr.com/ugd/85b18b\\_14a63a2a52344c339e0e8b18e8270fdb.pdf](https://e30ee03c-4cc4-4641-8ffb-9170a37a24a7.filesusr.com/ugd/85b18b_14a63a2a52344c339e0e8b18e8270fdb.pdf)

or on the front page of our website.

For the Zoom meeting link and password, please contact [parishoffice@saintmarks-stl.org](mailto:parishoffice@saintmarks-stl.org) or [mark@saintmarks-stl.org](mailto:mark@saintmarks-stl.org)

**PLEASE NOTE:** Zoom has issued a software update which requires users to update their Zoom. The prompt to do this can come when you try to join a meeting or when you leave a meeting. Let's hope they've fixed whatever caused our video/audio problems for many of us last week!

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## Church Reopening - A NEW UPDATE

As previously mentioned, the Diocese has issued guidelines for the reopening of worship/meeting spaces, the primary one being evidence that cases of COVID-19 are declining and have done so in St. Louis City for at least a fourteen day stretch (based on data from government health sources).

All churches in the Diocese remain closed through May 31<sup>st</sup>. The guidelines do not mean that come June 1<sup>st</sup> spaces will automatically reopen. Each parish needs to deal with their individual context and demographic. Additionally, we will need to understand what precautions need to be in place and what that means to our worship experience.

At the May vestry meeting each member offered their feelings about reopening. The general consensus was that we engage in a slow and deliberate process in doing so. The analysis of our space and worship practices, along with our cleaning/disinfecting needs is under way as we seek to ensure the safety of all who would attend in-person worship. We will continue to offer Zoom Church and Coffee hour in conjunction with in-person worship.

Subsequent to our meeting, the Diocese has twice issued some expanded/enhanced guidelines which we will incorporate in our discernment and planning. Jerre and I continue to discuss what an initial plan will look like. This will then be reviewed by the vestry, edited and reviewed again, and then submitted to the Diocese for their review.

As it stands now, we hope to have a plan submitted for review by mid-June. Even with a plan in hand any reopening date will be governed by the metrics in the guidelines. And while we all look forward to when we are able to meet in person again, I look forward to seeing you in Zoom Church on Sunday! – *Mark+*

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**ONLINE GIVING SURVEY** - St. Mark's is considering on-line giving options, through debit/credit cards and direct bank transfers. We would like to know your thoughts on this. Please take five minutes to complete our survey that can be found at this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MWZCFMP> . We appreciate your input!

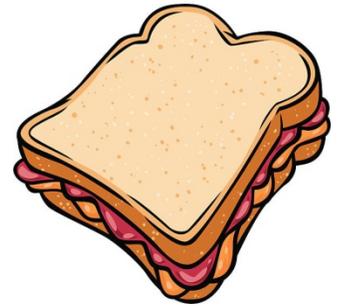
## NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE

**Congratulations on your retirement, Bishop Smith!** He officially retired on April 30. Bishop Smith reflected on his role as bishop and shared advice with our bishop-elect in a virtual fireside chat on April 25th. You can watch this personal chat between our 10th and (soon to be) 11th bishops by going to the Diocesan website at [www.diocesemo.org](http://www.diocesemo.org).

**After the global upheaval** that has upended lives all over the world—and delayed the ordination of our 11th bishop—the Diocese of Missouri is back on track to consecrate Bishop-elect Deon Johnson. A decidedly scaled back version of the ordination and consecration service is set for **11 a.m. on June 13 at Christ Church Cathedral**—and the service comes equipped with a Plan A and a Plan B, depending on how well the region emerges from the stay-at-home orders. For more information see the Diocesan website.

### **Sandwich Ministry for the Unhoused**

In conjunction with Christ Church Cathedral (CCC) St. Mark's has the opportunity to provide sandwiches to the unhoused population in downtown St. Louis. This would be an ongoing, weekly ministry. Sandwiches would be made at home and then dropped at St. Mark's where they would be gathered and taken to CCC each Thursday by noon.



There are very specific instructions on making the sandwiches: all surfaces disinfected, gloves/masks worn, sandwiches sealed in zip-lock bags then returned to the plastic sleeve the bread loaf came in.

Only two types of sandwiches are requested: peanut butter and jelly and salami and cheese. These survive well without intense refrigeration and happen to be the favorites of the folks who will eat them. Also, only soft bread (no hearty or crusty bread) as a number of the recipients have dental issues.

At a minimum we would need to have two folks each week making sandwiches. Ideally, we would have a pool of eight (or more) makers so we could rotate teams of two (or more) on a monthly basis.

Before we can commit to this ministry we need to know what interest there is at St. Mark's. Please contact Deacon Jerre at [jebirdsong@att.net](mailto:jebirdsong@att.net) to let him know if you are interested. There is ample funding on hand to offset cost of supplies if needed.

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