



The Eagle's Voice

The Newsletter of St. John's Church, Cohoes, NY

Volume 24 Issue 2

June 2020

Summer Greetings

Dear Friends in Christ,

The primary purpose of this newsletter is to let you know that after fourteen weeks of no in-person services at St. John's due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are opening the doors to everyone again for worship on June 28th at 9:30.

Because the coronavirus is still with us, we will be following some guidelines issued by Bishop Love. Our goal is to maintain the dignity of our worship, while maintaining a safe place for us to gather.

The Bishop's entire guidelines will be made available on our parish website. Below are some highlights of the changes you are

most likely to notice when we gather again.

- We are asking everyone to wear a mask or face covering. (extras will be available in the narthex). If you are reading or leading the Prayers of the People from the pulpit, you may remove your mask.
- While family groups are welcome to sit together, we ask that you keep a respectable distance from people you are not related to.
- We will sing, but less than we normally do. Not only is it difficult to sing with a mask (I know, I have been doing it for the last three weeks) but singing also increases the risk of spreading the virus.
- Please place your offering in the collection plate in the back of the church. We will not be passing the plate around during the service.

- The entire service, including music, will be in the bulletin. This will eliminate the need to sanitize the Hymnals and Prayer Books after each service.
- When exchanging the Peace, please do so without physical contact.
- Only the consecrated bread will be administered during communion. We ask that those that those who wish to receive communion come up as follows: Those on the right side (organ side) come down the center isle and receive by standing at the opening in the altar rail and return to their seats by around the pews to the right. After those on the right side have received, those on the left (pulpit side) come down the center isle, receive communion and then return to their seats by going around the pews to the left.

We have never gone through something like this before, so I am sure that we will need to make adjustments as we worship through the summer. If you

have any thoughts or comments on our worship, please share them with me or members of our Vestry. Everyone's opinion matters and is welcome.

Finally, you need to know that I have missed you and look forward to seeing you again.

Yours in Christ,
Bill+

BLACK LIVES MATTER

After the death of George Floyd, my sister shared with me a video created by an African American colleague of hers. In the video the speaker addresses himself to his white friends and he makes this request: "Please do not speak on my behalf. Instead, help create a space where my voice can be heard." I found that advice helpful and am committed to creating such a space. In God's

Kingdom there is a place at the table for everyone – especially those who have been marginalized in the past.

"He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"
(Micah 6:8)

Bill+



Church Finances

We would like to thank everyone that sent in your offering envelopes during our closure. Although we have had a little less expense while closed

we still had insurance and utilities to pay. If you were not able to drop off your offering please try to make it up during the fall.

One thing that has helped is that the clothing shed has been full every week. With time on their hands many of our neighbors have been cleaning out their closets.

Summer Schedule

Come Back Sunday
9:30 AM
June 28, 2020

Mass on the Grass
9:30 AM
July 5, 2020

Mass will be inside in case of inclement weather

Summer Worship
9:30 AM
July 12—September 6

Fall Schedule
Including
Sunday School

September 13