

**St. Mark's BMT**  
**COVID-19 Update: 3/20/20**

Dear St. Mark's Members and Friends,

We continue to practice and encourage social distancing in order to slow the potential spread of COVID-19 and that precaution has had a dramatic effect on our worship, ministries, and common life. The following is an update on how we continue to modify different dimensions of our worship, ministries, and common life.

This weekly update is based on guidance from Bishop Doyle and local civil authorities. Given the rapid pace of change regarding information and circumstances, please understand all these plans are subject to change.

**Our Worship**

We will continue to offer Sunday worship at 8 AM, 10:15 AM, and 6 PM through Facebook Live. This format will continue through AT LEAST Sunday, March 29, 2020. Check the website ([www.stmarksbeaumont.org](http://www.stmarksbeaumont.org)) for this week's downloadable Order of Worship and hymns.

I will continue offering Daily Evening Prayer each and every day at 6 PM.

If you have a home computer, tablet, or smartphone, AND ARE NOT ON FACEBOOK, please consider joining Facebook – and like our Facebook page - to stay connected with us.

If you ARE ON FACEBOOK, and know St. Markers and neighbors who are not, perhaps you can host small worship watch parties (no more than 10 people) in your residence.

You will find that using a “paper” prayer book and “paper” Bible (not an app or online resource) is the best way to follow and participate in our virtual worship. Please contact me (409-832-3405 or [tclark@stmarksbeaumont.org](mailto:tclark@stmarksbeaumont.org)) if you need either a “paper” prayer book or Bible.

**Our Ministries**

While your staff continues to work their regular office hours, we are encouraging minimal foot traffic by others in our buildings.

The Mary Cecil Speakers Series continues Wednesday evenings in an online format. Watch for an eblast and Facebook post this Wednesday morning with more details.

Bishop Fishers' Episcopal Visitation scheduled for Palm Sunday will be rescheduled.

Watch for more information about events in April through eblasts and Facebook.

## **Our Common Life and Pastoral Care**

In order to maintain a high degree of connectivity within our congregation while we practice social distancing, I need AT LEAST 10 MORE volunteers who are willing to call other parishioners (up to 10) on a weekly basis. If you can help with this important effort, please contact me (409-832-3405 or [tclark@stmarksbeaumont.org](mailto:tclark@stmarksbeaumont.org).)

While we care for one another in the parish, I know you are also caring for your neighbors in these unusual times as well. Please contact me if you are aware of any specific needs within the parish or your neighborhood.

Regarding our common life, your continued financial support of St. Mark's remains critical. Your staff continues to support our worship, ministries, and pastoral care – although in a modified way – daily. If you usually make your offering during weekly worship, please consider mailing (we will provide SASE envelopes for you) that weekly offering.

Or, consider setting up an auto draft for your giving through your bank. And you can always arrange for giving online by setting that up through the parish office (409-832-3405) with Jan Blessing ([jblessing@stmarksbeaumont.org](mailto:jblessing@stmarksbeaumont.org)).

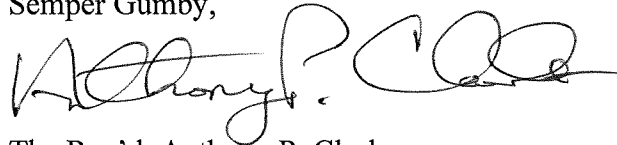
### **What's Next?**

We know our current circumstances are very fluid and we naturally wonder what the future might hold for us. Bishop Doyle continues to offer strong leadership by providing weekly guidance on necessary modifications or suspensions that may affect our worship, ministries, and common life. As he makes his guidance available, your staff develops the necessary plans and publishes those plans and other information to the parish as quickly as possible.

We are in this mode of social distancing for several more weeks. And we are in this together. Stay connected with one another by phone and stay connected with St. Mark's through our online offerings. We are still gathering for worship and still caring for one another, but just in very different ways. And remember, Jesus walks alongside us even in these very different ways and in these unusual times.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns as I remain

Semper Gumby,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony P. Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "A".

The Rev'd. Anthony P. Clark