

# St. Paul's by-the-Sea

## *Weekly news & updates*

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December 11, 2020

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### **Bishop's Pastoral Directive**

December 10, 2020

Dear Diocesan Family,

Grace, peace, and love in this Advent Season!

The Honorable Larry Hogan, Governor of the State of Maryland, in a COVID-19 Pandemic report to the state on television on December 10, alluded to the rise in the number of COVID-19 infections. According to his report all twenty (24) jurisdictions in the state are in the RED ZONE.



What this translates to is that the COVID-19 Pandemic infection rates continue to increase in the State of Maryland including the Eastern Shore. The Diocese of Easton is committed to the daily monitoring of the progress of the virus in the respective jurisdictions, and its potential effects to our parishioners. This exponential and precipitous increase should be disconcerting to everyone including your bishop.

Out of an abundance of caution, and my care and concern for the health and safety of clergy and worshippers, I am directing all parishes to suspend in-person worship in the sanctuary for Sunday, December 13 through Sunday December 20, 2020. I will continue to review the statistics from the State of Maryland, local county jurisdictions and seek counsel from clergy leadership in the respective jurisdictions to determine the appropriate course of action for the Christmas Season in-person services. I will communicate my decision by December 18, 2020.

In the meantime, I strongly urge outdoor worship, drive-in worship, drive through/parking lot worship and virtual worship, observing the protocol/guidelines as set forth by the diocese. Keep in mind, my beloved, the church isn't closed; the church of Christ lives on in perpetuity in our hearts and homes. Rather, the building is closed to in-person gathering.

In addition, beginning Monday, December 14, all church employees (including clergy) should begin working from home as much as is feasibly possible, if you are not already doing so.

Regarding, parish activities and use of parish buildings, in the strongest way possible, it is advised that all in-person activities and use of parish property (including use by outside groups) cease immediately. It is mandated that these events and usages cease by December 14th . They should remain closed to in-person activity until further notice.

I realize that this directive will be met with mixed emotions by many people. I am also

aware that there will be some who will be upset by this news, and I sincerely regret the pain that this decision may cause. Please know that this decision is made in the spirit of this Advent Season. It is our joyful hope and expectation that we all will celebrate the birthday of Jesus, who comes among us as Lord, Savior and Light, safely and in good health. Our faith teaches us that this miracle happens every year, whether we are celebrating it in our churches or on some sort of electronic media. For the past nine months, we have loved, prayed for, and leaned into one another. Please continue to do that for each other now and in the months ahead. As your bishop, I ask that you be the Body of Christ, for the Body of Christ.

Together in Christ's service,

The Right Rev. Santosh K. Marray  
XI Bishop of Easton

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**In response to the Bishop's directive and the suspension of in-person worship, the December 13 & 20 Holy Eucharist services will be streamed on Facebook Live at 10 am. Father Knapp will officiate. We encourage you to have your own bread and wine available so you can participate in communion from home. [Click here](#) for a PDF version of the bulletin so you can follow along with the service.**

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The Rev. Penny Morrow will officiate the second of three services entitled "Advent Evening Prayer at the Log Cabin," this evening, December 11, at 5:00 p.m. The service will be broadcast from her home via Facebook live on the St. Paul's by-the-Sea FB page, and will later be available on Facebook and on our website.

**[Click here](#)** to get a PDF of the service bulletin so you can follow along.

*Don't forget to follow us on Facebook so you will receive notifications when we are live and when a post has been added. Click the Facebook icon below to visit our page.*

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## **Vestry Highlights**

On Monday, December 7, the Vestry met via Zoom. The three areas of discussion and subsequent motions passed were:

Bob Rothermel made a motion to approve the November 15, 2020 Vestry meeting minutes sent out in advance and Karen Gordon seconded, motion carried.

Senior Warden, Jerilyn Andrews made a motion to appoint Bob Rothermel as the Junior Warden and John Knotts seconded, motion carried.

Tom Shuster made a motion that the Vestry accept the proposed budget as presented by the Finance Committee for the SPBTS 2021 budget and the Red Doors 2021 budget and Jerilyn Andrews seconded, motioned carried.

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### **Red Doors Work Group Update**

The Red Doors Work Group met via zoom on December 8. The group discussed several options for a Vision Statement. The discussion led the group to develop a draft Statement for Our Position in the Community and a separate Vision Statement. The group then moved on to discuss and begin to select Goals for Red Doors.

The group will make a progress report at the Vestry workshop with Sandy Cormack on December 13. The group will meet again on December 15 to discuss additional Goals and define some Objectives that would facilitate the meeting those Goals.

Tom Shuster

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### **St. Paul's by-the-Sea Book Club**

The St. Paul's by-the-Sea Book Club was recently formed to encourage community and learning through reading and sharing ideas. Several of us met last Sunday afternoon to select books to read in the coming year.

Please consider joining us for one or all meetings! It is your responsibility to procure the book. We will be meeting at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom. Our selections and discussion leaders for the next four months are:

Thursday, January 21 - Ordinary Grace, by William Kent Krueger .  
Discussion Leaders: Diane Lorton and Chris Stockett

Thursday, February 21 - Tiny Beautiful Things, by Cheryl Strayed  
Discussion Leader: Joy Conner

Thursday, March 18 - Lighting the Way: Nine Women who Changed Modern America by Karenna Gore  
Discussion Leader: Karen Gordon

Thursday, April 21 - The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell by

## Online Videos

December 4, 2020

### **Advent Evening Prayer at the Log Cabin**

December 6, 2020

### **Morning Prayer Service**



## Christmas Poinsettias

We are still accepting orders for poinsettias or greenery to be placed in the church during Christmas. The cost of the poinsettias is \$10 per plant, however, all donations are welcome. To ensure that your dedication appears in the Christmas bulletin, please submit your **order form** to the parish office by Tuesday, December 14, 2020.

Robert Dugoni

Discussion Leader: Amy Rothermel

## Memorial Brick Sale

Memorial bricks are again being offered for sale, through the end of the year. They are available in two sizes: 8x8 (\$500 each) and 4 x 8 (\$250 each) Wording is of your choice, and graphics are available.

If you are interested in ordering a brick to honor or remember a beloved one, **click here** to download a brick form. You can also contact Debbie Shuster at 410-213-9658 or **ocshu@comcast.net**, or the church office at 410-289-3453 or **office@stpaulsbythesea.org**, and we can forward the order form to you.

*A special collection is being taken to purchase a brick to honor Shepherd's Crook and their dedication to the community. If you'd like to contribute please contact Debbie Shuster or the church office.*

ONLINE GIVING

Go to our church website, click GIVE!

Give from any smartphone, tablet or computer, without installing an app.



[Click here to view the Parish Calendar](#)

