St. John’S EpiScopal church nEwSlEttEr

April 2020

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**A Message from Fr. Phil:**

If you are sick, stay home, if you are comprised or elderly set yourselves into a posture of social separation.

Keep in contact with others.

Moving forward we will do our best to keep everyone updated. In return we expect you to share your thoughts and prayers with the rest of us because we are the church and that’s what we do.

Blessings, Fr Phil

Each day additional boundaries seem to be drawn between us. The familiar places where we….just last week gathered to celebrate in community are being closed in an attempt to keep pace with the number of cases attributed to Covid-19. Personal borders and boundaries are separating the space between us on a daily basis. Social distancing is the order of the day. And what a difficult and painful order it can be. The sudden unscheduled shuttering of our communities is unsettling at best and even sad and scary in some cases. The reality that our warm and welcoming St.

John’s Church is closed to worship and fellowship for the next several weeks is indeed unsettling.

*Linda Lee Bill Flannery*

*Jon Olson*

*12th 24th 28th*

April Celebrations

However, and THANKS BE TO GOD we are still the church. We are still and always will be loved by God and given the grace to love our neighbors; to carry on as a community of faithful people rejoicing in the good news of the gospel. In the days ahead, you and I will find new ways to share our common hope, to support and comfort one another, to reach out to those in need, and to pray. After all we are the church and that’s what we do.

Eventually this virus will give way and we can once again pass the peace of God with a warm and sincere greeting. What a wonderful and joyous homecoming it will be.

**STAY CONNECTED THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA**

*Use Facebook to follow Fr. Phil’s message and to post your comments:*

**Facebook/saintjohnsepiscopalchurchvinita**

*Use the church website for church service and meeting updates:*

[**www.stjohns-vinita.org**](http://www.stjohns-vinita.org/)

*Use the Diocese website to live stream church services:*

[**www.epiok.org**](http://www.epiok.org/)

Until that time we must remain faithful by continuing to fully participate in the life of the church.

It is essential that we continue to honor our pledges. The church has overhead with or without a nave full of people. In truth our overhead remains constant and our plate offerings are simply not there. Mail your pledge offerings to the church as you are able on a regular basis. We are the church, that’s what we do.

The best way to reach out in love to your neighbor is to be serious about taking care of yourself. Take the necessary precautions and wash your hands at every opportunity, use hand sanitizer, develop and maintain a healthy lifestyle.