

St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church

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 StMichaelsEpiscopalBuffalo



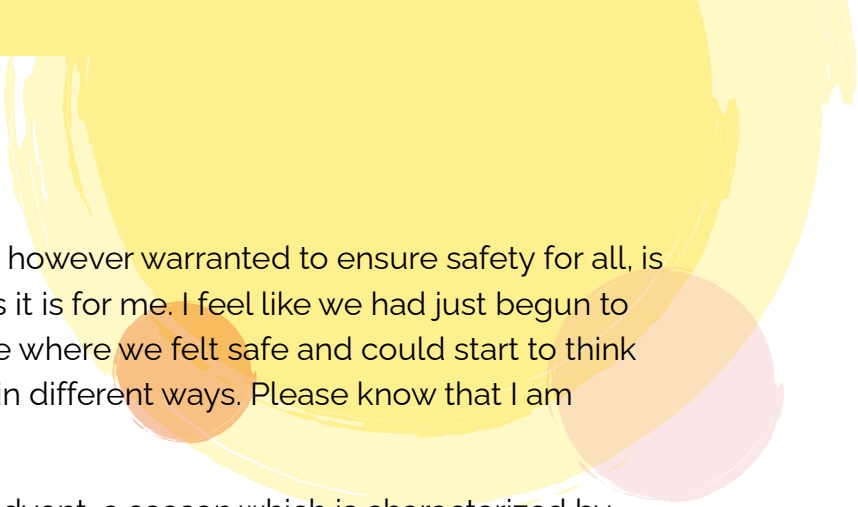
Dear People of God at St. Michael & All Angels,

I, along with all of you, was looking forward to meeting with you all in person on Sunday as we continue our worship together; however, the plan has once again changed. Due to the rising number of COVID-19 cases, Bishop Sean Rowe has immediately suspended indoor worship and other gatherings within our church buildings. This decision will be revisited in December, but the likelihood is that this suspension may last through Advent and Christmas. A copy of his letter is available at the Partnership Website. [<https://episcopalpartnership.org/a-message-from-bishop-sean-in-person-gatherings-suspended/>]

Due to the quick turnaround required to offer something this coming Sunday, I will offer Antecomunion (the Liturgy of the Word portion of the service concluding with The Peace) this coming Sunday on Facebook at 9:30. Head over to our new Facebook page [<https://www.facebook.com/StMichaelsEpiscopalBuffalo>] to view the service at that time. A bulletin will also be posted there if you wish to follow along.

The Worship Committee will be meeting this coming week to discuss options for services during the time when we are not permitted to offer in-person worship. We will be considering all possible options, including streaming a service from the church sanctuary. I am very cognizant that we have members who may not have reliable internet service and I want to assure you that we will keep this in mind in developing offerings. In addition, the Partnership will continue to offer a weekly virtual worship service [<https://www.facebook.com/episcopalpartnership>] released Sundays at 10:00 am.

As you or visitors access our website at stmichaelsbuffalo.org, you are given an opportunity to sign up for an email list which will be utilized to keep you aware of any opportunities to gather on a weekly basis. Look for this email to come out on Fridays each week.



The pivot away from in-person worship, however warranted to ensure safety for all, is undoubtedly as disappointing for you as it is for me. I feel like we had just begun to get some traction to returning to a place where we felt safe and could start to think about ministering to our neighborhood in different ways. Please know that I am available to talk if you so desire.

In just a few weeks, the Church enters Advent, a season which is characterized by hope, preparation, waiting, and joy for what is to come and Christ who has come. Traditionally, we join with all those who longed for a new day to dawn and cried out to their merciful God for relief. This year, the season of Advent takes on new personal meaning as we hope for an end to suffering from COVID-19 and its financial and societal implications, including unemployment, isolation, hunger, and homelessness.

Thank you for your understanding and patience as we look forward to a new day at St. Michael and All Angels. Together, we will experience a new joy.

May God's peace and grace continue to enfold you and those whom you love,



Rev. Jason Miller

Priest-in-Charge

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