

Wednesday Information - May 19, 2021

Dear friends

Last week the Governor of Delaware announced that, with effect from May 21, all vaccinated people can remove their masks in places of worship. The Governor also removed the restriction on church capacity, allowing churches to have a maximum of 250 persons inside. All of those who are unvaccinated are asked to keep their masks on.

These new rules will come into effect at St Martha's with effect from Pentecost Sunday (May 23).

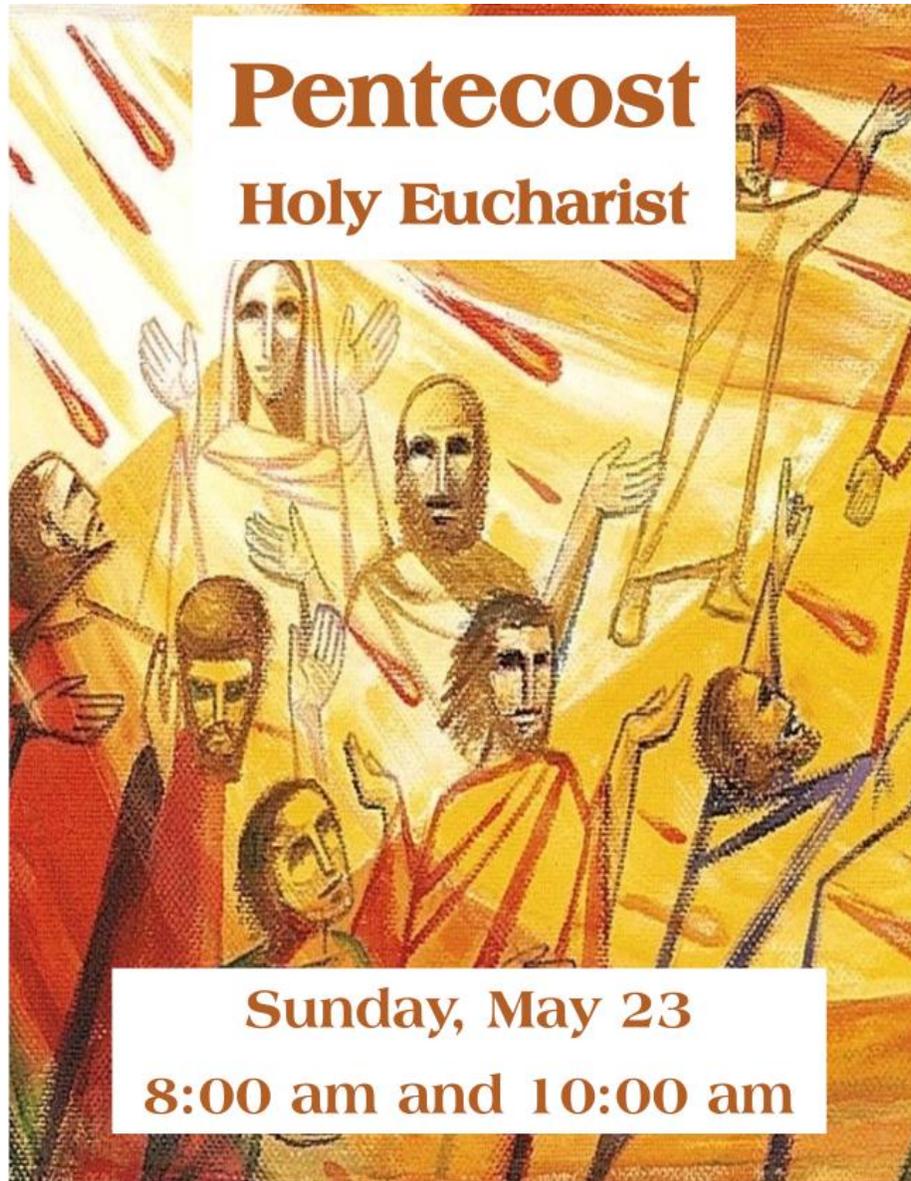
It means that when you come to church you will no longer have your temperature taken and the ushers will not check your name off from the list. The new regulation will allow all the seats in the church to be available once again. We will not be asking people if they are vaccinated, so you must assess the risk to yourself. Note that some vaccinated people will continue to wear masks. Out of consideration to those who feel unsure about close personal contact, at the Peace we will continue the practice of remaining in place and not moving from where we are - this is also the correct *liturgical* practice, as we exchange the Peace of Christ only - it is not there to provide an opportunity to catch up with your neighbor - that is what Coffee Hour is for.

It will take a while for everyone to adjust. Please show your neighbor courtesy and kindness, whether they have a mask on or not. By God's grace we have come through and so this is a time for giving thanks and blessing God.

Since the world is built around human interactions, the removal of masks among vaccinated people will actually make our lives more meaningful. I remember a quotation I used last year to discuss the coronavirus and its impact on our social lives. It was from the French philosopher Emmanuel Levinas, who wrote that "meaning is the face of the Other, and all recourse to words takes place already within the primordial face to face of language...the face speaks to me and thereby invites me into a relationship."

Our primary relationship is with God, whose face, paradoxically, we do not see. But God is to be found in our prayer and worship and in the relationships we have with others. The face has its own language, history and power. That we are able to see our neighbor's face again and for them to see ours is a blessing and a cause for celebration.

Father David



If you are unable to worship in person, please join us as we livestream.

To view the livestreamed service please click the Youtube link below.



Ascension Day Service - Thursday, May 13th



UPCOMING EVENTS

Art and Faith

This evening, **May 19** at 7 pm. Jesus in the Temple by Jim Janknegt. Discussion will be followed by Compline (Night Prayer). Please click the Zoom link to join.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81182729287?pwd=YWtnR2x2RDVnVEx6Q2w2cTNPMBBU
T09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81182729287?pwd=YWtnR2x2RDVnVEx6Q2w2cTNPMBBU
T09)

Meeting ID: 811 8272 9287
Passcode: 036892

SMVBC

Thursday, **May 20** at 3:00 pm. The book club will discuss "Reflections" three and four of *Struggling to Be Holy* by Judy Hirst. To join, please click on this Zoom link.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89227510076?pwd=N1lpZm1PbDByNzQzdzFBVFVHejBRdz09>

Meeting ID: 892 2751 0076
Passcode: 449291

Stitch and Sketch

Friday, **May 21** at 10 am in the Parish Hall. We have knitters, painters, quilters and many other crafters who gather to stitch, craft and socialize. All are welcome.

Ecumenical Prayer Service for Christian Unity

Pentecost Sunday, **May 23** at 3:30 pm. The grounds of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Frankford.

Movie Night

We continue our monthly movie night in the Church Hall, on Tuesday, **May 25** at 6:30 pm. Our next movie will be **The Way**, starring Martin Sheen. A father heads overseas to recover the body of his estranged son who died while traveling the "El camino de Santiago," and decides to take the pilgrimage himself.

Trinity Sunday

Holy Eucharist, **May 30** at 8:00 am and 10:00 am.

Mission and Vision Forum

We will hold our first forum on Sunday, **May 30** at 9:00 am (between the 8:00 am and 10:00 am services). The discussion is to solicit feedback from the parish on the mission and vision as well as the initiatives currently being focused on.

In Person Bible Study

Tuesday, **June 8** at 1 pm. Led by Father David. Beginning a study of the Pastoral Epistles - 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus. Meet in the Parish Hall.

Men's Breakfast

The next men's breakfast will be held in the Lighthipe Hall on Wednesday, **June 16** at 9 am. Our guest will be Sgt Patrick Foley, from the Bethany Beach Police Department.

Parish Picnic

Our Parish Picnic this year will be held on Wednesday, **June 16** at 5:30 pm.

Celebrate Pentecost

and The Gifts of the Spirit

Sunday, May 23, 2021

*@ 3:30 P.M.—Grounds of
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church
Roxanna Road*

Ecumenical Prayer Service

Sponsored by

Southeast Sussex Ministerium

*(Bring a chair/ blanket and Picnic
Supper to follow the Prayer Service*

'til 6:00 P.M.)—Please Mask,

Music for Prayer Service

Vision Mixer

We are looking for people to learn the art of mixing our livestream videos. Our aim is to build a team of people who are trained and efficient in operating the video technology every Sunday. If you are interested, please contact Father David or Clem Edgar or send an email to admin@stmarthasbethanybeach.org.



Parking

From May 15 to Sep 15, the town enforces parking rules, violations are \$40. Along Pennsylvania Ave there are parking meters and along Maplewood St there are "permit only" signs. These rules are suspended for St Martha's parishioners and visitors up to noon on Sundays. After that, the rules are enforced.

Committee Corner

What's new this week

Outreach

Outreach thanks parishioners for their donations for personal items. Wincy Jackson purchased a carload of items and dropped them off at the Pyle Center for distribution to those in need.

Prayer List

Bev and Jack Shubert, Marie Hogsten, Robert Hicks, Christine Mains, Carolyn Clarke, Jim Lucas, Jane Robbert, Cathy Jordan, Al Davidson, Diane, Barbara Mahoney, Father John Mitchell, Emily Lawson, Pauline, Donald Williams

For the recently departed: Paul Stutts

For our serving military: Quinn Barber, HM3 Kevin Murphy, Conner Warlow, Daniel Olnick

Prayer LIST – If you would like to add someone to the Prayer List please contact the office at (302) 539-7444 or email admin@stmarthasbethanybeach.org. The Prayer List is a way to ask for prayer from the whole congregation for a loved one who is dealing with a stressful issue such as chronic illness, job problem, or other personal problem. Only the person's name is listed. Names stay on the list for one month unless and until renewed.

Prayer CIRCLE – These volunteer prayer warriors pray for a person who has asked for urgently needed short-term prayer for a specific purpose like surgery or an upcoming medical test. These requests are confidential. You can email prayercircle@stmarthasbethanybeach.org for Prayer Circle intercessions. You can also contact Jaclyn at admin@stmarthasbethanybeach.org or 539-7444. Voicemail messages are being monitored and you will receive a return call during normal office hours (Monday-Thursday, 9am-1pm).

Pastoral CARE – If you have a pastoral care need, please call Elsa or Carol at (732) 216-6875 or contact the office using the email address or phone number listed above.

Pastoral Care EMERGENCY – Please contact Father David Beresford at (302) 468 9062.

Please give by mail or website donate button

Please continue to support our mission work by submitting your pledge to St. Martha's Episcopal Church, PO Box 1478, Bethany Beach DE 19930 or give via the donate button on the website where there is a box to note your contribution purpose: <https://www.stmarthasbethanybeach.org/make-donation-or-pledge/>.

*King of the universe,
you show the bright glory of your reign
in acts of mercy and enduring love;
raise the spirits of the downcast
and restore those who have fallen away,
that we may sing for ever of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Have a wonderful week!

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