

April 24, 2020

Do You Miss Fellowship with Your Church Family? Do You Miss Fellowship with Your Christ Church Family? We have been so blessed by our Clergy and Lay Ministers for the many services available each week during this time of suspension of all public gatherings.

But what about “Coffee Hour” and the many “Events” that we would typically and regularly gather and socialize with our Church Family?

Beginning next week, Christ Church will host on ZOOM a virtual “Coffee Hour” on Monday evenings from 7:00-8:00pm.

For those not familiar with ZOOM, it is a video chat room/meeting space. If you have a phone or computer with video/camera functions, you will be able to join in and SEE the faces of your Church Family as well as show us your face. If you are not interested in being visible, having your video off is an option.

If you do not have or are not comfortable using a computer or internet, you can still participate by calling in on your phone. You will still be able to listen and speak to everyone else participating.

You should have received in your email on 4/23 a ZOOM invitation to register for Monday Evening "Coffee Hour". You MUST register in order to be able to participate. After registering you will receive another email including both the link to Join the Meeting or the Phone # to call in and Meeting ID#.

Don't worry, those without the capability of receiving this email or registering online will be individually phoned and provided all

needed information to participate if interested. And, if you did NOT receive an email already, please contact the Church Office by Monday AM.

We look forward to “seeing” your faces in these virtual Coffee Hours as we take this opportunity to say "Hello!" and "How are you?"

If you need any help, please let me know! Blessings!

Sunday Services WILL NOT change to ZOOM. Although advertised last week that we would change our Sunday Services to ZOOM, it has been decided to forego this change. At this time, all future Sunday and Weekday services will remain on Conference Call as we have been doing since March 15th.

Join us for “Service” from the safety of your HOME! During this time of “public service suspension” through at least the month of May, your Clergy and Staff are providing multiple times a week live and recorded services via phone and email.

The current weekly schedule of live services via phone are:

Sundays, 9:45am — Wednesdays, 10:00am — Fridays, 7:00am

We plan to have each service recorded and then provided to you via email as well as posted on our website www.christchurchtomsriver.org.

To listen to the live service please:

Dial: 712-770-5505

Enter Access Code: 189853#

If you have any difficulty, please email or call the church office (leave a voicemail).

Update from the Discernment Committee: Greetings! As all of us are aware, we are in the midst of an unprecedented time in our living history. As buildings have been closed, employment furloughed and life as we knew it came to a grinding halt, the diocese also had to make decisions about people and practices that would be impacted. In light of this, Bishop Stokes and Rev. Dr. Brian Jemmott, Transition Coordinator have suspended all discernment activity with prospective clergy until further notice. The committee has been able to do virtual meetings and we are set and ready to continue once the "all clear" is given. Please pray for those who have applied to be our rector that they may remain safe and healthy as they minister to their parishioners.

The Church Office is Receiving Voicemails, Emails & Mail: If you need to reach us for any reason, please 1) Call the church office at 732-349-5506 and leave a voicemail. Voicemails are being immediately received offsite and we are calling you back as soon as possible. Or 2) Email NicoleStrada@ChristChurchTomsRiver.org and she will reply as soon as possible. We are also receiving our USPS mail.

COVID-19 Coronavirus Discretionary Fund: While everyone's life has been impacted by the coronavirus, we have become aware of several people in our parish who have already lost their

jobs and income and are in dire need of emergency assistance. Also, as this disaster continues, we expect that more jobs will be affected. For this reason we are setting up a Coronavirus Discretionary Fund. This fund will provide emergency assistance to people affected by this disaster. If you are in need of emergency assistance, please contact one of the clergy (Mother Petrina, Deacon Jose, or Deacon Ted). If you are able to contribute to this fund, please send a check to Christ Church (415 Washington St. Toms River, NJ 08753) with "Coronavirus Fund" in the memo. A restricted account has been established specifically for this purpose. May God bless us all. We will get through this together.

** As April 23, the COVID-19 Fund balance stands at:
Contributions: \$19,405.50; Disbursements: \$1,510.00

The **FOOD PANTRY** remains open to anyone in need on TUESDAYS from 9:30am to 12noon. The pantry is well stocked and we are still serving many in our community.

WE DO HAVE SOME ITEMS WE ARE URGENTLY IN NEED OF:
Jelly, grape — Jelly, strawberry — White rice — Canned fruit

We are also in need of:

Sugar — Peanut butter — 2% or fat free long life milk — Pasta sauce — Spam — Canned chicken — Canned stew — Canned diced tomatoes — Ketchup — Pinto Beans — Mayo — Mustard — Pancake mix — Pancake syrup — Canned peas — Ramen noodles

If you are still comfortable shopping, can shop safely and would like to drop off donations, please drop them on the lower table (outside) marked DONATIONS ONLY, between 9:30am and 11am on Tuesday mornings. This allows our volunteers time to log and

load the food while we are there. If you need to schedule a different drop off time, please contact the Church Office.

If you have any questions at all, or are not considered 'at risk' and would like to volunteer for the Food Pantry, please free feel to contact (text/call) Claire Koerner at 732-600-5709 or email Clairekoerner1503@gmail.com. Thank you, more than ever, for your support of the CHRIST CHURCH FOOD PANTRY.

Weekly Finances: During the year 2020, we have budgeted \$5,635 to come from pledges and loose offerings each week. For the week ending April 17, we received \$2,324 in pledges. (There were no loose offerings due to there not being any services in church.)

Contributions & Pledges During Covid 19: Our pews will be empty for the next several weeks, that also means our collection plate is empty. We are asking if you would please continue to send in your pledges even though our weekly worship services have been suspended. Although most of life as we know it has come to a halt, the bills continue to come in and need to be paid. You can help us keep our bills current by keeping your pledge up to date. You can do this by mailing a check to the office (415 Washington St. Toms River, NJ 08753), or you can set up online bill pay through your bank (see your bank for details). Please consider doing this, so that once we are back in church, we can continue moving forward without the worry of how we are going to "catch up". Thank you!

Please Let Us Know How You Are Doing — We want to hear from you! And know that you are doing “ok” amongst this pandemic. Please leave us a Voicemail or send us an Email!

Becker Youth Scholarship: ATTN: High School Seniors and College Students! Completed applications must be submitted by May 7. Need the application? Reply to this email and we will email it to you. If you have any questions, please contact Jessica DeRiggi at jessderiggi@gmail.com or 732-330-9092.

The Annual Spring Rummage Sale originally scheduled for May 14 & 15 has been **CANCELLED**. We will hope for better and healthier circumstances in September for a Fall Sale.

Birthday Club : We all have one day of the year that is just for us; it's our birthday. We may celebrate in grand style with family and friends singing that special song, eating cake and GETTING gifts; or we may choose to celebrate in a quiet fashion. However you choose to celebrate, it is YOUR special day. The Endowment and Stewardship Committees have come up with another way to celebrate this day. How about GIVING a gift that will KEEP ON GIVING? Each year on your birthday, we are inviting you to join the Birthday Club by writing a check in the amount of your age to Christ Church, which will be deposited into the Endowment Fund. The Endowment Fund is invested with the diocese. By giving to this fund on your birthday, you will be contributing to the day-to-day life of the parish as well as the future of Christ Church. It is truly a gift that will keep on giving! How can you donate? Simply write out a check for the amount of your age, put Birthday Club in the memo and put it in the offering plate, mail it or drop it off to the office mailbox. So that we can all watch our gifts grow, we will

update you on what we have received. We look forward to celebrating each of your birthdays! **Total contributions for the month of April are currently \$140 (2 birthdays)!**