

Gulf Atlantic Diocese Coronavirus Connections Zoom Call 3.26.20

Outline of what was covered in the diocesan call on 3.26.20. Please watch video (1 hour) for more information.

1. Welcome, review of Zoom etiquette, and prayer.
2. Bishop Neil gave us a word of encouragement and spoke to us regarding Communion guidelines.
 - a. This is an opportunity to consider what we were doing that can now be dropped or abandoned.
 - b. Innovate for different kinds of ministry.
 - c. Celebrate Easter on Easter.
 - d. Plan a secondary celebration the day we return to the buildings.
 - e. After covid19, it is likely we will have a greater need for small groups.
 - f. Use your vestry; consider biweekly Vestry meetings after we return.
 - g. Some people will not stay beyond this crisis; expect membership fluctuation.
 - h. Bishops are meeting next week to discuss Communion options. *Will update after meeting (probably GAD Zoom call 4.2.20)*
 - i. You cannot do a Eucharistic prayer and consecrate elements over airwaves/ over virtual Communion.
 - ii. It is not recommended to have a drive-in service where people are sitting in their cars, listening on the radio to a service, and then coming up to take Communion.
 - iii. Lay Eucharistic ministers (and clergy) should not enter homes to deliver Communion.
 - iv. Drive *through* Communion is a potential option (Safe Eucharist Distribution will be communicated the first week of April)
 - v. LEM/clergy giving Eucharist off site should follow Safe Eucharist Distribution guidelines and not enter homes.
3. Pastoral care ideas for those not connected online:
 - a. **Phone calls:** phone tree or buddy system
 - b. **Cards:** Have family/friends make cards and send them
 - c. **Collect needs:** meet those needs as able
 - d. **Tutorials** at elderly person's home, outside: give them the website for the church, get them to download zoom
 - e. **Email** the link from the service to them afterwards
 - f. **Thoughtful gifts:** Send them Sudoku or crossword puzzles or things they might enjoy
 - g. **Postcards**
 - h. **Facetime**, if apple users
 - i. **Service on phone call** (conference call): Dropping BCP at house; calling in to voice conference all for evening prayer (or morning prayer)
 - j. **Life groups** become mini parishes; everyone in a lifegroup
 - k. Adoption: have children adopt them; children can write letters and encourage them; littlest ones can draw pictures

- l. **Calling them to pray** with them, not just check in on them
- m. **Texting** them; most are trained to do that
- n. **FB live without an account:** Teach them how to join a FB live feed without joining FB
- o. **Radio church:** Put a service on the radio
- p. **Home Communion kits** (if follow recommended protocol by bishop)
- q. **Burn DVDs** of streamed service and drop off at homes
4. Breakout rooms: Ideas for Holy Week
 - a. See **page 3** for ideas.
 - b. Plan 1-2 things to celebrate Easter.
5. Q/A
 - a. Be flexible; plans may need to change as the situation changes.
 - b. Pastoral visits to nursing homes: offer phone-in service, or call to pray with them; sing outside windows, make posters, send gifts.
 - c. Will probably return to buildings in phases with limited activity at first. Be patient.
6. Closed with prayer

If you have any questions or want to hear more about a topic in the future Zoom calls, please email Jessica: jjones@gulfatlanticdiocese.org

Ideas for Holy Week

Palm Sunday:

- Have Palms and a little **box of Holy Week supplies** available for pick up at church (outside in bags). This could include a sprig of thorns, a palm branch, instructions on how to fold into a cross, the readings and liturgy for Holy Week, instructions for a foot washing service, etc.
- Send home a **scavenger hunt** a few days before to find props that families will need during the service, have reader/pastor use similar items during reading/sermon; Have families walk around their houses for the triumphal entry. Passion reading recorded ahead of time on Zoom. During the reading, have the family use props found in the hunt to keep kids engaged in the story.
- Have a **passion reading** with multiple voices from the congregation; splice together before hand.

Maundy Thursday/Good Friday:

- Virtual **Foot Washing** service: Families wash each other's feet; Volunteers drive to those living alone to wash their feet
- Virtual **stripping of the altar**
- Online **Tenebrae** service with alternating readings, songs, and prayers. This can be done with 1-4 people.
- **Stations of the Cross** at home: consider using a blank template with just the station name and having people write prayers and color pictures that are associated with each station, or using free images and music and creating a virtual 'walk' through the stations
- **Stations of the Cross** virtual presentations: have households create different stations and submit a video of them; church splices them together and presents a video of stations for the congregation, by the congregation.

Easter:

- **Drive thru Communion**: see guidelines above for distributing Communion.
- **Easter box**: build shoeboxes for every family in the parish filled with things that they will USE during the Easter service
- Have everyone pick up (at the church, perhaps) **seedlings or small trees** and go home and plant it; create a litany with prayers and scriptures for new life in Christ
- Send **home Communion** (according to bishop's guidelines)
- Having a few children involved in the **readings**- recorded from home ahead of time
- **Flowering the Cross** over the course of Saturday

Returning home to the building:

- **Gratitude** chains, jars; bring them to the building upon return for display
- **Journal**; share highlights by submitting prior to return
- **Testimonies** (by video; send in and compile)
- Full **holy day celebration** and plan a second observation of Easter (not omitting the first, and not pretending the date changed; just celebrate LIFE)