



ZION EPISCOPAL CHURCH

140 West Liberty Street • Rome, NY 13440-5750
In the Diocese of Central New York
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Dear People of Zion:

The coronavirus pandemic is causing global responses to ensure the public health.

Our diocesan Bishop has issued a Pastoral Directive that, effective March 15, 2020, suspended all “in person worship and gatherings” in all parishes within the Episcopal Diocese of Central New York.

Please DO NOT come to church on Sunday mornings until further notice. Doors will be locked.

Your church is NOT closed, however. We are reaching out, seeking to continue worshipping in community in different, exciting ways, even from our homes....until we can gather back, safely, in our sanctuary again!

Here is what we are going to try to do. For all who are interested in these next weeks of isolation:

(1) For those with computers at home with internet service, or persons with “smart” phones able to access the internet...**starting on Sunday, March 22, we will “live stream” the Eucharist on-line at 9:00 a.m.**

(2) For those who DO NOT HAVE internet access, we will telephone you personally during the week to pray, to visit, to check in.

This is how the on-line, live streaming will work.

(A) On Google or other internet browser, insert: **<https://www.facebook.com/ZionChurchRome>**
(You DO NOT need a personal Facebook account to access our parish Facebook page, meaning that you do NOT need to JOIN Facebook to come worship online here)

(B) On Google, click on: Zion Church (Rome, New York) - Facebook

(C) On the parish Facebook site, you’ll find the video on the front page below.

It is CRITICAL that, upon receipt of this letter, you call the parish office and inform Annette if you want, or do not want, to receive a copy of the bulletin, sermon, and consecrated wafers for Holy Communion. We need to know if you WANT, or DO NOT WANT, to participate in this way...so that the parish will not incur the additional, unnecessary expense of mass copying and mailing. We need to be financially prudent at all times, especially now.

It is also CRITICAL that, if you are not participating online, that we know of your desire to receive a weekly telephone call because we need and want to pray together and keep in touch during these difficult times. So, please call the office and let us know, right away.

Zion Episcopal Church is a Christian community called to bear witness and celebrate the love of Christ in our parish family and throughout the world.

Also, it is CRITICAL that we all continue to forward our pledges or financial contributions to the parish in this time of physical absence. Please mail your contributions, inside of your pledge envelope, and mail in a larger envelope to the parish..OR...you can pay your pledge or contribution ONLINE. Our parish Treasurer, Michael Rescigno, has included details in the bulletin, or you can call the office for further information.

Finally, and perhaps most CRITICAL, that we find a way to receive your regular communications and request for PRAYERS. Email and/or call Annette at the office anytime, 24/7, and leave a message if you need to, in order to share the need for our "Common Prayer".

In closing, in the words of our Bishop DeDe:

“God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of love and hope and a sound mind. Over the past four years we have been working together in the Learning Communities Initiative and various workshops to learn new ways of being church. We now have an opportunity to allow our love of God and love of neighbor to guide us into new ways of encountering Jesus. How might we be called to be community, to serve others beyond the doors of church, in ways we have not yet dared to dream? Let us dream new dreams and be at peace, and let us love one another in word and in deed.”

In the Love of Christ,

The Rev. James K. “Jim” Heidt
Rector - Zion Episcopal Church