

# MY DEAR THEOPHILUS

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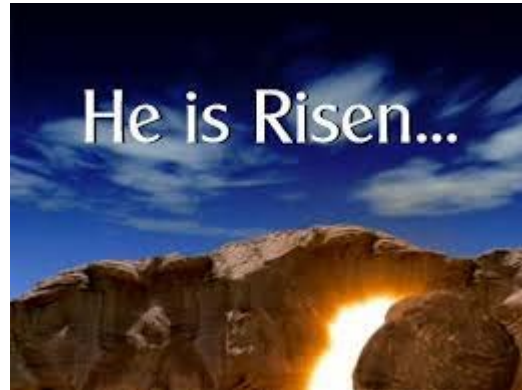
## NEWS FROM AROUND THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION

### Anglican Church of Korea sends aid to New York as Churches gear up Covid-19 response

The Episcopal Church's Diocese of New York is set to receive a package of facemasks and hand sanitizer donated by Anglicans in Daejeon.

### Anglican Church of Melanesia activates Emergency Operations Centre in light of Cyclone Harold

The Anglican Church of Melanesia has activated its Emergency Operations Centre in light of Cyclone Harold, which formed off the Solomon Islands in early April.



Dear Parish Family:

Alleluia, Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed, alleluia!

It was the first day of the week; day was dawning and Mary Magdalene and Mary go through the place where the dead are laid, a cemetery, they go to the tomb to anoint the dead Jesus. They are surrounded by the dead.

But they do not find what they expect to see. The Lord's angel adorned in light descends

from God's space rolls back the stone sealing the cold, dark tomb, and the angel sits on the stone. The guards flee in terror sealing their own deaths as Roman soldiers.

The angel's first words are: "Do not be afraid. Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay."

Mary Magdalene and Mary's response was fear and great joy. The first reaction to the Resurrection was confusion and fear mixed with joy.

The angel tells them to go and tell the others, the ones that ran away afraid who are afraid now, that Jesus has been raised from the dead, the tomb is empty. And as the women run to go tell the others, they run right smack into the Risen Jesus! Imagine the astonishment and the fear! They saw him on the cross. They were standing right under it. They saw Jesus die. They saw his lifeless body taken from the cross. How can this be? Jesus greets them. They take hold of his feet and worship him. Then Jesus repeats the angel's words to them, "Do not be afraid. Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

It is no mistake that all of this takes place on the first day of the week. It is the first day of the new creation. Jesus ushers in the new creation bursting forth from death, and let there be light. We are surrounded by anxiety, by uncertainty, we are surrounded by fear. Jesus proclaims: "Do not be afraid! What is there to fear? Mary Magdalene and Mary have already witnessed the worst that evil could do. They have walked among the dead looking for the dead. What they encountered was the power of the living God who is the God of the living.

"Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

The resurrection of Jesus destroys fear. It pulls us out of slavery from the fear of death.

The freedom from fear does not come in the way our culture seems to pursue it, by denial. To see the full glory and mystery of Jesus' resurrection, we have to recognize that apart from Jesus we are the walking dead living in fear, and with Jesus we are with him part of his new creation. As followers of the Risen Jesus, you are a living, breathing miracle. Look at the impossibles that God has already worked in you, sin gone, you are covered in grace covered, death is conquered and life is abundant—the good news of salvation and

transformation—you have been made a new creation. You have to go to Galilee and proclaim what you have seen and what you have heard from wherever you are.

Fr. Paul Wheatley writes: “Going to Galilee is walking through the door. It’s going home, to those places closest to our hearts, places where we are most vulnerable, most unimpressive, most powerless, and most afraid.” You see the Risen Jesus has already gone there, Jesus has gone to the depths of the grave. Jesus has gone to the depths of our darkness.

Let there be light as on the first day of creation and on this the first day of the new creation. Walk in light of the Resurrection. God in Christ has turned the ways of this world upside down. God does not do it subtly, quietly, but by an earthquake, by an angel covered in light rolling away the stone from the tomb, by the Lord of all the earth, the King of the world being buried in a cold, dark tomb and turning death inside out.

Jesus calls us out of our tombs of anxiety, uncertainty and fear to the places where he already has been and is, where he is waiting to meet us.

So do not be afraid. With the empty tomb behind you and the living Jesus ahead of you, go forth proclaiming that the Lord is risen, Christ is risen indeed. “Go, tell his disciples and Peter that Jesus is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see Jesus, just as he told you.”

Your servant in Christ,

The Rev. Chester J. Makowski, Rector

Many people have been asking: “When we will be able to gather again to celebrate the Eucharist?” Below is the latest from the Diocese on the issue. The last directive suspended public services until May 10, 2020. As you know, this is a very fluid situation. The new guidelines, dated April 24, 2020, reflect that. They follow below.

# Guidelines from Bishop Doyle Regarding COVID-19 within the Episcopal Diocese of Texas

April 24, 2020

The Diocese of Texas has released Phase II Guidelines for regathering amid the COVID-19 pandemic. We are currently in Phase I.

[Click here to read Phase II Guidelines](#)

**Here is a portion of the Phase II Guidelines:**

## Phase II Worship Guidelines at Church

All offices and church gatherings or service work reopened during this time will have to follow these measures:

1. Be attentive and follow the gathering guidelines for your region.
2. Receive permission from the regional bishop.
3. Encourage staff or community members to [protect their personal health](#).
4. Post the signs and [symptoms of COVID-19](#): fever, cough, shortness of breath.
5. Clergy and church employees will be tested for COVID-19, with negative results, if such testing is required by local civic leaders.
6. People will be required to wear fabric nonmedical face masks while in the community to reduce their risk of asymptomatic spread.
7. Clean surfaces that are frequently touched- such as shared desks, countertops, kitchen areas, electronics, and doorknobs.
8. Limit events and meetings that require close contact. In worship this means:
  - A. No sharing of the common cup. The celebrant may drink only. No intinction.**

## **B. No physical touch during the passing of the Peace.**

9. Stay up to date on developments in your community.
10. Create an emergency plan for possible outbreak. You will need to close if someone contracts COVID-19. And, participants with proximity to the individual who is sick will have to be quarantined. Surfaces will have to be cleaned by an outside contractor.
11. Assess which community members are at higher risk and plan accordingly.
12. We would advise that vulnerable populations of individuals “older than age 60 and those with compromised immune systems or compromised lung and heart function, should continue to engage in physical distancing as much as possible until a vaccine is available, an effective treatment is available, or there is no longer community transmission.”
13. Ask those who are sick to stay home and seek testing for COVID-19. Testing should become more widespread and routine. We will want to pray for them and follow up ensuring safe distancing and 14-day protocols prior to reentering offices and gatherings.

**Each congregation will need to receive permission from the regional bishop to reopen the office and to regather for bible study or worship. Permission during phase III will also need to be sought to restart service ministries.**

### **Phase II Home Worship Guidelines**

1. Be attentive and follow the gathering guidelines for your region.
2. Receive permission from the regional bishop.
3. Have a plan if guidelines allow 10, 50, or 100 to gather. How big is the program?
4. Encourage staff and participants to [protect their personal health](#).
5. Clergy and church employees must be tested for COVID-19, with negative results, if such testing is required by local civic leaders.
6. People will be required to wear fabric nonmedical face masks while in the community to reduce their risk of asymptomatic spread.

7. Clean surfaces that are frequently touched- such as shared desks, countertops, kitchen areas, electronics, and doorknobs.
8. Limit events and meetings that require close contact. This is problematic for home worship and must be considered.
9. Stay up to date on developments in your community.
10. Create an emergency plan for possible outbreak. You will need to close if someone contracts COVID-19. And, participants with proximity to the individual who is sick will have to be quarantined. Surfaces will have to be cleaned by outside contractor.
11. Assess which community members are at higher risk and plan accordingly.
12. We do not recommend home worship gatherings for vulnerable populations. We would advise that vulnerable populations of individuals “older than age 60 and those with compromised immune systems or compromised lung and heart function, should continue to engage in physical distancing as much as possible until a vaccine is available, an effective treatment is available, or there is no longer community transmission.”
13. Ask those who are sick to stay home and seek testing for COVID-19.
14. If at any time a member of the worshiping group falls ill, then the whole group will need to quarantine.

### ***THE TORNADO IN POLK COUNTY***

In the early evening of Wednesday, April 22, a tornado tore through Polk County and killed 3 people, some 30 others injured and hundreds of homes destroyed. As we know, some of our own parishioners were impacted by the devastation and are now left to rebuild.





The Polk County Office of Emergency Management designated the Oasis at St. Luke's as a drop off for clothing, bedding and household goods. This was done in large part because of the work of the Oasis in the community related to assisting those in need. Individuals from all over East and Southeast Texas came by to donate goods for those in need. Volunteers at the Oasis stepped



into action unloading, separating, loading, and transporting goods to those in need. A big thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help!

St. Luke's has been receiving gift cards to Walmart which will be used for those who will need to purchase nearly everything. These will be used for those persons who do not have insurance to cover the cost of their loss.

The physical recovery and reconstruction will take a few years. The emotional recovery may very well take much longer. Let us all not forget the work that needs to be done after the initial work is done.

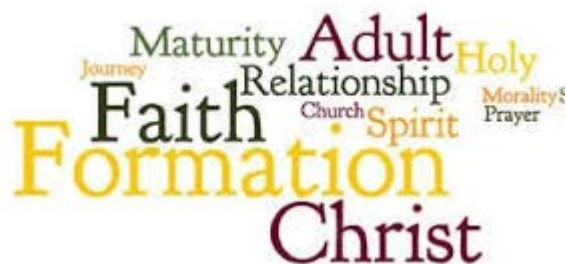




# THE COOKING MINISTRY



The Cooking Ministry has re-opened and Flo and John have been in the kitchen preparing meals which are now being delivered. If you know of someone who would like a hot meal, please call the Church Office.



Even though he and Kay have been adversely impacted by the tornado, Wes Amason continues to post Adult Ed videos which in the wake of the storm are a very powerful witness.

For you Fr. Dave Pivonka, TOR, fans, we have been sending links to the episodes of his new series *Metanoia*.



***FEATURED HOLY PERSON OF  
THE MONTH  
CATHERINE OF SIENNA  
APRIL 29***

***By James Kiefer***

Catherine Benincasa, born in 1347, was the youngest (one of my sources says the 23rd) of twenty-five children of a wealthy dyer of Sienna (or Siena). At the age of six, she had a vision of Christ in glory, surrounded by His saints. From that time on, she spent most of her time in prayer and meditation, over the opposition of her parents, who wanted her to be more like the average girl of her social class. Eventually they gave in, and at the age of sixteen she joined the Third Order of St. Dominic (First Order = friars, Second Order = nuns, Third Order = laypersons), where she became a nurse, caring for patients with leprosy and advanced cancer whom other nurses disliked to treat.

She began to acquire a reputation as a person of insight and sound judgement, and many persons from all walks of life sought her spiritual advice, both in person and by letter. (We have a book containing about four hundred letters from her to bishops, kings, scholars, merchants, and obscure peasants.) She persuaded many priests who were living in luxury to give away their goods and to live simply.

In her day, the popes, officially Bishops of Rome, had been living for about seventy years, not at Rome but at Avignon in France, where they were under the political control of the King of France (the Avignon Papacy, sometimes called the Babylonian Captivity of the Papacy, began when Philip the Fair, King of France, captured Rome and the Pope in 1303). Catherine visited Avignon in 1376 and told Pope Gregory XI that he had no business to live away from Rome. He heeded her advice, and moved to Rome. She then acted as his ambassador

to Florence, and was able to reconcile a quarrel between the Pope and the leaders of that city. She then retired to Sienna, where she wrote a book called the *Dialog*, an account of her visions and other spiritual experiences, with advice on cultivating a life of prayer.

After Gregory's death in 1378, the Cardinals, mostly French, elected an Italian Pope, Urban VI, who on attaining office turned out to be arrogant and abrasive and tyrannical, and perhaps to have other faults as well. The Cardinals met again elsewhere, declared that the first election had been under duress from the Roman mob and therefore invalid, and elected a new Pope, Clement VII, who established his residence at Avignon. Catherine worked tirelessly, both to persuade Urban to mend his ways (her letters to him are respectful but severe and uncompromising -- as one historian has said, she perfected the art of kissing the Pope's feet while simultaneously twisting his arm), and to persuade others that the peace and unity of the Church required the recognition of Urban as lawful Pope. Despite her efforts, the Papal Schism continued until 1417. It greatly weakened the prestige of the Bishops of Rome, and thus helped to pave the way for the Protestant Reformation a century later.

Catherine is known (1) as a mystic, a contemplative who devoted herself to prayer, (2) as a humanitarian, a nurse who undertook to alleviate the suffering of the poor and the sick; (3) as an activist, a renewer of Church and society, who took a strong stand on the issues affecting society in her day, and who never hesitated (in the old Quaker phrase) "to speak truth to power"; (4) as an adviser and counselor, with a wide range of interests, who always made time for troubled and uncertain persons who told her their problems -- large and trivial, religious and secular.

Let us pray: Almighty and everlasting God, who kindled the flame of thy love in the heart of your servant Catherine of Siena: Grant unto us the same strength of conviction and power of love that, as we rejoice in her triumph, we may profit by her example; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



***PLEASE LET US KNOW IF SOMEONE NEEDS A HOME VISIT***

If you know of anyone who needs a home visit because they cannot get to Church, please call the Parish Office, or let Fr. Makowski know. Either Fr. Makowski or one of our Lay Eucharistic Visitors will call on them. If you have a pastoral emergency, please call Fr. Makowski at 713.299.7675.

***THERE IS POWER IN PRAYER***

Praying is something that we all can do, young and old, rich and poor, tall and short. Please pray for everyone on our Prayer List.



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

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***ONCE WE ALL GET TOGETHER AGAIN, PLEASE  
BRING PORK & BEANS FOR MANNAFEST!***



## NOTICE

**PURSUANT TO SECTION 30.07, PENAL CODE (TRESPASS BY LICENSE HOLDER WITH AN OPENLY CARRIED HANDGUN),** A PERSON LICENSED UNDER SUBCHAPTER H, CHAPTER 411, GOVERNMENT CODE (HANDGUN LICENSING LAW), MAY NOT ENTER THIS PROPERTY WITH A HANDGUN THAT IS CARRIED OPENLY.

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**CONFORME A LA SECCIÓN 30.07, DEL CÓDIGO PENAL (TRASPASE POR PORTADOR DE LICENCIA PARA EL LIBRE PORTE DE ARMAS DE FUEGO),** PERSONAS CON LICENCIA BAJO AUTORIDAD DEL SUBCAPÍTULO H, CAPÍTULO 411, DEL CÓDIGO DE GOBIERNO (LEY REGULADORA DE ARMAS DE FUEGO), NO DEBERÁ ENTRAR A ESTA PROPIEDAD CON UN ARMA DE FUEGO A LIBRE PORTE.

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