



Dear St. John's Family,

November 15, 2020

Galatians 6:9 reads, *"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."* I have found myself repeating this scripture more and more these days. As we continue to navigate the world in which we live, I like some of you, am growing weary. Many folks have hit what the professionals like to call, "the COVID-19 wall." Yet, Galatians reminds us of the call to persevere and the promise that awaits if we do. Now is not the time to let our guards down; now is the time to remind ourselves of our baptismal vows. We have pledged to love our neighbors and care for the least of these, especially during challenging times.

COVID-19 numbers have continued to climb at alarming rates over the course of the past several weeks. Because love commands us to act and because we do not want anyone missing from our community when we come out on the other side of this virus, we are suspending all in-person worship effective November 21st until the end of the year. We are not alone in this decision. Every parish in the diocese is joining in this effort to reduce the spread of the virus.

What this means for us as a community:

- All parish meetings will be conducted via Zoom or through email.
- Worship will take place online on our YouTube and Facebook pages.
- Support Groups will continue to use our space for meetings (limited numbers).
- The Village and the Food Pantry will continue to operate as is.
- The staff will continue to work from the office and their homes and will be available via phone/email. In-person visits to the office will be limited to emergency situations only.

Now for the Good News: the clergy and staff have been preparing for this shutdown for months. The life-giving seasons of Advent and Christmas are right around the corner and we believe there are countless opportunities to encounter Christ through our worship and common life together in the coming months. From a Community Christmas Tree to a Christmas pageant never done before the Holy Spirit is moving among us. We are being shaped again by our faith and our perseverance. Please check out the December Messenger to hear more about our Advent and Christmas plans.

Please help us stay connected by subscribing to our News/Events on the St. John's website. Simply go to www.stjohns-lancaster.org. At the top of the page click on News/Blog. On the right-hand side of the page, you will see a box that reads, Email Subscriptions. Please fill out the information and stay informed. Most importantly, reach out to one another. Don't wait. We have so many opportunities to "be together" through this, please use them: pray, join us for virtual worship, pick up the phone and call someone from our community, drop a note in the mail, and then pray some more. Remember friends, *"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."*

I remain faithfully yours,

Amanda

GROW IN GOD, ACT IN SERVICE, WITNESS IN LOVE

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