

May 1, 2020

Greetings to all,

Christ is Risen!



I recall speaking with Fr Marc back when the Coronavirus pandemic started to directly impact us. It was early in March. We had our final Divine Liturgy together the previous Sunday – March 8. The Lenten season was just ramping up. And then the directive arrived from OCA to close churches.

Father and I conferred and we quickly put up a conference line, and scheduled a recurring Sunday phone call. At that time, we thought it would only last for two weeks. As we have seen and experienced, 2 weeks has turned into 4 weeks, into 6 weeks. Now we're facing weeks 7 and 8.

Our weekly call was intended to be simple. Just a call. No Zoom video conferencing. A lifeline out to our community, and beyond, where people could call in and know that friends would be there to greet them. Father would be there to lead us in prayer. We could share stories of triumph, of boredom, or sadness.

To this point, it has sustained us through Great Lent and Holy Pascha. And it will continue for the foreseeable future. However, there is light beginning to flicker from the Empty Tomb. Even now the Holy Synod, under the guidance and direction of His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon, are making plans to re-open churches.

By design, the plans will be gradual, measured and conservative. But churches WILL be opening again. The Holy Trinity Parish Council is working very closely with Fr Marc on timing, and how that will look for our particular church. Certainly, we will need help from the entire community to make re-open at Holy Trinity a reality, and success.

During Sunday's meeting, Father Marc will share information gathered from a meeting held on April 29, with all the clergy from the Diocese of New England (OCA), including His Beatitude. Frank will also provide a financial update.

Up to now, our weekly calls have provided a needed, and gentle resting place for our frazzled nerves and weary souls. And we will continue to use it that way. But going forward, there will be more time and increased emphasis given to discussion surrounding our specific plan for the eventual, upcoming, humble, yet glorious re-opening of our beloved little sanctuary.

We will begin the call on Sunday at 11:00am. The forecast is for a very nice, warm and sunny day and should give you the opportunity to enjoy the afternoon without interruption.

I hope to hear from you this Sunday, and I can't wait to see you all again, soon.

Sincerely,

-Tim Fetzko