

May 29th, 2020

Dear All,

This week brings a number of news items to share with you:

First, this Sunday St. Mark's will be joining our fellow Episcopalians around the Bay for a Diocesan-wide service of Pentecost at the cathedral, live-streamed with Bp. Marc. The service is at **11am rather than 10am** (you can find details for tuning in below). I'm proud to share with you that our own choir will sing for the service! This is thanks to some hard work from our singers recording themselves at home, and then many painstaking hours from George Emblom to stitch them all together. Their anthem is the famous Thomas Tallis motet, "If Ye Love Me," perfect both for celebrating Pentecost and for encouraging us all in the midst of this long and uncertain time of pandemic.

Second, Monday begins Toni's maternity leave. She'll be away for twelve weeks, and will return to the office again on Monday August 24. Please join me in wishing her well, with prayers and every blessing for a good and happy time away! In the meantime, St. Mark's is fortunate to have a veritable army of volunteers stepping in to the many hats she wears, from finance to property to communications to office matters. The office email will remain live, and that's still the place to direct inquiries, calendar requests, and all the rest of the usual things — but please just be patient with what may be slower than usual responses.

Finally, as you've all seen in the recent update on our plans for Shelter-in-Place, the parish office and buildings remain closed for the foreseeable future. It's the wisdom of both the bishop and our vestry that we proceed cautiously with regard to reopening, and you can be sure that we will take whatever time we need in order to be sure of everyone's safety when we do finally resume public worship. In the meantime, I remain immensely grateful for everyone's patience and generosity, and your commitment to St. Marks and to one another.

With much gratitude —

Yours faithfully,
Fr. Blake