



Patience is a Virtue

After receiving the Bishop's announcement that services would not resume until June 1 (June 7 for the first Sunday Services), I quickly found a biblical principle or scripture that might help in my impatience. "Patience is a virtue" is not exactly a direct quote from the Bible. In fact the quote actually comes from a 14th century poem entitled "Piers Plowman" by William Langland. However, the virtue of patience can be found in a number of Old Testament and New Testament scriptures. My favorite and the one that first came to mind can be found in Galatians 5:22-23:

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, PATIENCE, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."

Many of us may need to pray for the fruit of the Spirit found in the virtue of "patience" during this time away from our worship services and faith community. The idea of waiting patiently and waiting upon the Lord is a frequent Christian theme and virtue that is found throughout the Bible. So . . . we wait, again. We are called as we are called to wait frequently in our Christian and liturgical journey together. We will need to continue to be patient even during this "first phase" of open worship as there will be a number of guidelines, restrictions, safety procedures and precautions. As your Priest, I am very frustrated about not having our "normal" worship services and Parish Life together and I am a bit anxious about what the "new normal" will be over the coming weeks or months. However, I am most grateful to have any opportunity to gather together once again in our sacred space for our faith community at St. Philip. A grateful heart is another Christian virtue that can serve us well in all things and life circumstances. I hope you join me as we pray for patience . . . with a grateful heart.

Along with my previously published list of recommendations, this week I will add: Be patient!

- "Keep calm and carry on."
- "Take heart, do not be afraid."
- Pray for protection, healing and restoration.
- Fortify yourself with spiritual readings and study.
- Stand firm in our faith.
- Reach out to those in need.
- Allow your hearts and homes to be a temple of God.
- Prepare a place for a sacred space.
- As Easter People, celebrate Easter – Alleluia!
- Be patient!

May the peace of the Lord that passes all understanding and circumstances of this life be with you!

Fr. Terry 