

From Fr. George Re: gradual reopening **IMPORTANT**

Sat, May 30, 2020

Dear Parish Family:

Has anybody else been on an emotional roller coaster lately? Has anybody not been on one!?

We just got off a new roller coaster phone call this afternoon with Elise in Minneapolis. Her block had 300+ armed National Guard overnight, and 4-5 burning buildings visible from her window! Today she and Kenny joined in street cleaning, wondering what else will burn tonight!

Our privilege in Ben Lomond is to bring our own emotional uncertainties, the pain of our friends and our parish, and even the feelings and needs of the whole country and world, before the living God tonight at Vespers and tomorrow at Orthros and Divine Liturgy. The familiar old litanies take on new depth and poignancy - "the peace and stability of the holy churches of God," "peaceful times," "for all civil authorities." Exactly what we need!

We come seeking peace. Christ Himself is our peace. We all miss the dimension of His peace conferred when one worships in his home sanctuary with his treasured brothers and sisters.

Do not let the number ten take your eyes off Christ or the joy of beginning to come back together. Clergy, chanters, servers and their families don't count against the ten laity number!

There will be social distance space for you and gracious brethren if necessary can use the sound system in narthex or hall. The doors can be opened and any 'extras' can stand there! You are highly unlikely to be turned away!

Fr. Tom and Dn. Anthony will lead the 6 p.m. service tonight. The Wentzels will be helping at the doors tonight with social distance protocols and sanitizing products as needed.

We will clean well before morning services begin. John and Jan Ivancovich will help at the doors tomorrow.

The Living God is at work for good even if we have not been let in on His plan. May he bring all of us together in love, whether present or absent this weekend. Your faithfulness in coming back together will yield good fruit!

All love, blessings and prayers,

Fr. George