

THE LYCHGATE

September 27, 2020

Parish Newsletter of
The Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields



From Fr. Philip

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

2020 marks the 130th anniversary of the founding of St. Martin's parish. Early in 1890, Mr. Ira Doane organized and conducted a service in his home in the area now known as the Junction Triangle. Later that same year a simple wood frame church was erected on Perth Avenue that was to be called St. Martin's. The new church was the second in the area, joining the Perth Avenue Methodist Church which had been built two blocks south of St. Martin's in the previous year. There were very few people living in the area at that time, and many of those who did worked on the railways which cut through the neighbourhood. Houses had only started to be built on Perth and the surrounding streets in 1889 as the neighbourhood was developed by Simon Hemon James, who had been busy up to that point developing the area now known as the Annex. In 1890, Queen Victoria had been on the throne for 53 years. Toronto had a population of 181,200. The tallest building in the city was the seven storey Beard Building at King and Jarvis. The city skyline was dominated by church spires. The horse-drawn tram system was in the process of being electrified. It was a very different world to our own, and yet, just as we are facing particular challenges in 2020 in this time of the pandemic, so we can imagine the challenges faced by the new congregation of St. Martin's as it struggled to establish itself in a totally new area of the city.

And, of course, the challenges did not end there. Over the years parishioners at St. Martin's have faced one challenge after another, whether it was the destruction of the Perth Avenue church by fire, the momentous move west to our present site and the building of a new church, the First and Second World wars during which 20 parishioners died on active service overseas, the effects of the Spanish Flu epidemic, the Great Depression, and the financial difficulties in the later 20th century which almost led to the closing of the parish.

In our Sunday readings these past few weeks we have been following in the Book of Exodus the foundational story of the people of Israel, as God rescues them from slavery and oppression under Pharaoh and brings them through the Red Sea and Sinai wilderness to the Promised Land. Over and over again in these passages, we hear the call to remember, remember where you have come from, remember where you are going, remember the struggles along the way, but remember most of all the way in which God was with you, supporting, encouraging, and guiding you, bringing you out of slavery into freedom in your own land. As we approach the celebration of Thanksgiving, this is a good time for us to hear that call ourselves, to remember.

Like the people of Israel, we at St. Martin's are asked to call to mind our foundational story from our founding in 1890 then all through the years, with our many struggles culminating in the present time with the particular challenges we face now in this unusual period of the pandemic. And yet, through it all, God has not deserted us, but has been present in the power of the Spirit, to encourage and challenge us to be a living and life-giving presence in this High Park/West Bend/Junction community.

There is indeed much to be thankful for as we gather in prayer and worship this October. Not the least of our occasions for gratitude is the amazing way that parishioners have pulled together to allow us to return to in-person worship, and to permit us to livestream our services directly to the homes of parishioners unable to attend worship in person. This is yet one more instance of the way in which God's grace has been at work on our parish's 130-year journey.

We cannot minimize the personal trials of so many both within the parish and beyond, and yet we also cannot minimize the experience of God's grace and love that has been with us. We know that there are still many challenges to face in the coming months, but just as God did not leave the people of Israel bereft in their desert pilgrimage, so God will not abandon us as we continue to live out our faith and seek to be a beacon of light and hope in this community. Let us respond to God's call this October, to remember, and to give thanks for 130 years of ministry and witness here at St. Martin's.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Philip

Church Directory



**The Church of
St. Martin-in-the-Fields**

151 Glenlake Ave.
Toronto, Ontario M6P 1E8

www.stmartininthefields.ca

Church: 416-767-7491
Fax: 416-767-7065

Incumbent:

The Rev'd Canon Philip
Hobson OG

Honorary Assistants:

The Rev'd Canon
David Luxton
The Rev'd James
Decker
The Rev'd Canon
Harold Nahabedian
The Rev'd Canon
Alyson Barnett-Cowan
The Rev'd Alison Hari-
Singh
The Rt. Rev'd Victoria
Matthews

Organist & Music Director:

Jack Hattey

Church Wardens:

Jonathan Gentry
Eilonwy Morgan

Secretary:

Margaret Allen

Property Manager:

Mark Kolberg

Upcoming Events

Sunday, October 11 – Harvest Thanksgiving

Sunday, November 15 – Patronal Festival

Sunday, November 29 – First Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 5 – possible Christmas
Market (watch for updates)

**Since August 30,
2020, from the
Parish Registers:**

Weddings:

None

Baptisms:

None

Funerals:

None



About *The Lychgate* Newsletter: *The Lychgate* is published four times a year. Parishioners and friends are encouraged to submit news and articles to the editor, Ian Greene, at iangreene0766@rogers.com. For digital access to *The Lychgate*, including colour photos and links to web sites, go to <https://stmartininthefields.ca>.



NOTE: You can opt to go paperless and cancel your mailed copy of *The Lychgate*, and in future receive it only by email after the church re-opens, by emailing *The Lychgate* volunteers at Lychgate1111@gmail.com.

Photos courtesy David McKnight:
St Martin's Garden in August

Going to Church – A Brave New World!

By Kathie Wagg

First, it is indeed wonderful to be able to worship together again, either in person or by watching a livestream of the 11:00AM service in the comfort of our homes.

But I am sure that many of you have noticed that all is not as it was six months ago, and it will not be like it was for quite some time to come.

So what is different? Why? And who is involved? These are the questions you may be asking.

Well, you now have to register to be able to attend our services, either by computer through our website www.stmartininthefields.ca or, for those without computers, on our church telephone line #3. Why is that? We are restricted by regulation in the number of people permitted in the church at any one time. So who controls this? Right now, two new positions perform these functions, an Eventbrite Coordinator and a Telephone Coordinator. Over time, we hope these will merge into one function, a Registration Coordinator. We will be seeking volunteers for this role.

When you arrive at church for a service, you will be met outside by a Greeter. This person will welcome you, ensure physical distancing before entry, ask COVID-19 health questions, and finally, spray your hands with sanitizer. Why is this necessary? We want to ensure that entrance is orderly and that worship is safe for all. But isn't it pleasant to have someone welcome you to church?

The next person you will encounter is the Registrar. This person will check that you are registered and that your contact information is complete. If a parishioner arrives who has not registered, the Registrar will determine if there is space available to attend the service. If we have reached maximum capacity, the Registrar will politely ask this person to return home and to watch the service on livestream. The Registrar will also obtain full contact information from newcomers and will pass that to Fr. Philip for later contact. The Registrar will then file the registration documents in a secure binder. Why is this necessary? The registration documents are required for contact tracing in the event that there is a COVID-19 infection with any attendee. These records will be kept for three years.



September 13 Re-Opening Day
Ben Tshin operating camera

You will then encounter a Sidesperson, whose role has changed significantly. The Sidesperson will make sure you receive an Order of Service leaflet, will point out where collection offerings should be put, will encourage you to sanitize your

hands again, and will escort you to a seat in the pew colour designated for this service. Pews have been 'coloured' for each service to maintain proper social distancing. Sidespeople will also regulate the flow of those receiving communion and later of people exiting at the end of the service.

Much is different in our services as well. There are no books in the pews. The full service is printed in the leaflets weekly – a big job. There is only one server, which is normal for 8:30 and Tuesday but very different for the 11:00 service. And Fr. Philip celebrates alone from a smaller altar closer to the congregation. Tuesday services are now held in the main church, not the chapel because of physical distancing requirements. And for the 11:00 a.m. service, there is no choir – no singing at all except by a designated soloist located far from other individuals. We do, however, have organ and piano music, for which we are grateful. Thank you, Jack! So why are these changes necessary? Everything is done to ensure maximum protection for everyone in the building. The health and safety of our Parish family is of prime importance and is a requirement for us to continue to be able to meet together.

There are two other new functions at play at this time, the livestreaming of the 11:00 a.m. service and the sanitizing of the church between the 8:30 and 11:00 services every week.

So who undertakes all these activities? Volunteers! We are blessed at St. Martin's to have parishioners who stepped up when Fr. Philip asked for help to allow us to open. We are so grateful to all of these people. You will see some of them when you come to church.

Welcome to the Brave New World of St. Martin's!



September 13 Re-Opening Day
Robert Snow operating livestream

Observations from the Re-Opening Committee

By Tim Stephenson, Chair of Re-Opening Committee

We have had two weeks of seeing each other in person or on livestream and the careful planning of the Re-Opening Committee has paid off. There were many unknowns — how do we make this the best experience for those attending, how do we welcome visitors, how many people to register by phone or by Eventbrite? Registration opened on Monday morning of September 7 and was full by Wednesday evening for the 11:00 service. On Sept 13 we welcomed over 20 people to the 8:30 service and we were over half full, while the 11:00 a.m. service had almost 50 people attending, and all 26 "groups" were full. The Tuesday service was about

half full. The new roles of Greeter, Registrar and Cleaner all went smoothly and the sidespeople adapted to the changes to keep people as safe as possible. There were almost 50 people who viewed the livestream during the service, and another 50 who viewed the service later in the week.

For the second week the registration closed on Saturday at noon when registrations reached capacity for the 11:00 service while the 8:30 and Tuesday services had free spaces. At the 11:00 a.m. Sunday service we were able to welcome visitors and some parishioners who had not registered, but we had to turn away a group who arrived late when all spaces were filled.

We will continue to use Eventbrite for all services for the next few weeks so we can monitor numbers. Another advantage is that Eventbrite provides registration info for the registrar. The Livestream has been warmly received and we will continue to provide it for the foreseeable future. Fr Philip emails the service leaflet on Saturday which allows parishioners to follow at home when they view the livestream.

As we want this to be the best experience of worship possible given the present circumstances, please let us know if there is anything we can improve upon.



September 20 Gathering After Church in Garden

FaithWorks Fun(ding) Day

By Judith Kidd



What a wonderful day for the parishioners, friends, and family who spent the afternoon of Sunday, September 30th, at Camp Nokomis walking or swimming or canoeing for FaithWorks.

Thanks to all who supported these 'athletes' who, in some cases, went to the limit of their endurance for a special cause.

The day was perfect – not too hot – and after the heavy physical workout, a brief rest, and some welcome socializing



(at a safe distance) we finished the afternoon with a special Compline service by the lake.

Thanks to Jay and Vickie Haddad for their gracious hosting, to all those who participated, and to the generous sponsors. Through everyone's efforts we were able to raise a little more than \$8,400.

Almost Like Being There



Monica and Matthew Green Living through a pandemic has been challenging for everyone. Here in California, where safety protocols have been particularly strict, social gatherings have been quite limited and so much time indoors with just each other and our dog has left us yearning for more

community.

Fortunately for us, we have stayed in touch with our dear friends at St. Martin's. We began attending St. Martin's 10 years ago, when Matthew started his studies at Toronto School of Theology. We had been searching for a home church and after just one service we knew that this beautiful church, filled with such friendly and loving people, was going to be our home in Toronto. It broke our hearts to leave in 2014 to go back to the States.

Yet this April, when we heard through our friends that St. Martin's was starting to do virtual coffee hours on Sundays, we asked if we could join in. What started out as a fun way to reconnect with old friends soon became our spiritual and social sustenance in the midst of our lockdown, as week after week, we joined in to say hello, participate in the service, and hang out in the breakout rooms for smaller group conversations. Even though we were 3,500 km away, we were back in our St. Martin's beloved community, worshipping and sharing together.

Since everything was online, we got to be even more involved. Monica was able to participate in the excellent book discussion of *White Fragility* led by Mother Alison. Matthew stepped up to help run the technical part of the weekly Zoom gatherings. With his headset on, monitoring the action on two screens set up on our dining room table, Matthew looked a bit like he was at Mission Control!

When September came and St. Martin's resumed services in the church building, we both cried tears of joy to see Fr. Philip celebrate behind the altar. We continue to be so grateful to the team making the live stream of services possible. Even though we could only join in spiritual communion, we felt that we were still a part of the family and were thrilled to connect again with everyone at the virtual coffee hour after.

When this pandemic began, we had no idea the effect it would have on us. We never imagined that it would create

the opportunity for us to rejoin our favourite church community. Thanks be to God!

Parish Profile: Hazel Bentley

By Ian Greene



Hazel has been a parishioner at St. Martin's for nearly seven years, and many of us have begun to know her better during the past few months through our Zoom coffee hours.

Hazel grew up outside of Port Credit, where she went to school. She was an only child in a family with little money. Her mother, who was British, didn't like the Church of England so became a Baptist. Hazel's mother was chronically ill, but this tough situation contributed to Hazel's resilience and determination. After graduating from high school, she got a job with the Bank of Commerce, which she "loathed." Fortunately, she got a job with Bell Canada and worked there for 31 years. At the culmination of her career with Bell, she was a systems application manager. She visited potential business customers to determine what kind of telephone system would be best for them. Amongst other projects, she designed the telephone system at the Living Arts Centre in Mississauga.

In 1995, Bell was downsizing and everyone working there was offered a severance package. Hazel left Bell with a good package but felt she had more to do in life. She worked on contracts for various organizations building on her Bell experience. But at night she went to college to study psychotherapy. The first college she attended was not a good fit, so she transferred to the Ontario Psychotherapy and Counselling Program. At the age of 62, she graduated, and then had a psychotherapy practice for ten years with an office on Madison Ave.

In addition to her career, Hazel has had interesting hobbies — tap dancing and steel guitar!

Hazel met her future husband, Brian, in 1965, on a blind date. Hazel had not liked her Baptist upbringing and was delighted that Brian was part of the Anglican tradition. They married in 1968 at St. James Cathedral. Brian sang in the choir at St. James for forty years. He was the Bursar at Royal St. George's College. He was also an active member of the Model Railway Club of Toronto, where Hazel also helped out. Hazel and Brian took many railway journeys across Canada, the U.S., and Europe. Their love of travel also included cruises, and together they enjoyed 28 cruises in various parts of the world.

Hazel loved her psychotherapy practice. Those training for psychotherapy must undergo therapy during their college courses. They can't help their clients unless they understand themselves first. Psychotherapists are expected not to tell their clients what to do: they are to give them enough facts so that they can decide on their own the best course of action. Hazel remembers one client with anger issues whom she worked with for five years. Early on in his therapy, he threw a cushion against the wall. Hazel said, "We need to talk. You can hit the cushion, but not throw it." A colleague of hers who heard the commotion stood outside door in case things escalated, but they didn't. Hazel, true to her training, remained cool and calm.

After ten years, Hazel closed her practice in anticipation of knee surgery. After the surgery, she worked for the college for two more years assisting with referrals. She matched up potential clients with students close to graduating.

After Brian retired from the choir at St. James, Hazel and Brian attended Grace Church-on-the-Hill and later Hazel attended All Saints Kingsway. Hazel was involved in many committees and was a lay reader. Larry Barwick, whom they knew through the Model Railway Club, suggested that they experience a service at St. Martin's, and they did. At the coffee hour after the service, Fr. Philip saw them and asked, "Are you thinking of coming here?" Hazel's answer was, "I've just picked up the offering envelopes."

Unfortunately, 2018 and 2019 were not good years for the Bentleys. In October of 2018, Hazel was involved in a serious car accident and in January of 2019, Brian was diagnosed with cancer. Brian died in June of 2019 and the funeral was held at St. Martin's on July 6. With Brian gone, Hazel decided to sell the home and move to The Grenadier Retirement Residence, from which she has joined us during the Zoom coffee hours.

Charity and Social Justice

By Judith Kidd

"...and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

Micah 6:8

Last March, St. Martin's parishioner and Diocesan Social Justice & Advocacy Consultant, Elin Goulden, led a workshop for our Lenten series, Living the Gospel, about "Charity with Justice." It was definitely a thought-provoking two hours. Elin reminded us that charity and justice go together – not only in the Biblical context but also in the daily reality of living out our Baptismal vows. I particularly appreciated her quote from the American philosopher Cornel West, "Justice is what love looks like in public."

How can we incorporate both charity and justice in our individual and parish missions? One way, is exploring how we can learn more about the root causes or deeper social issues behind one of the outreach activities that we are involved in. And, how do we do that? Here's one way:

Every month a diocesan “**Social Justice and Advocacy Update**” arrives in my mailbox. If anyone wants more information about social justice issues, they should go to the diocesan website and sign up. Here are three on-line activities that will give you more information and ways to take action:

- **Register for Diocesan Outreach Conference October 24:** This year the Outreach Conference is a fully virtual – and free – event. Bishop Peter Fenty will give the keynote address on the theme "No One Is Disposable." This theme carries over into workshops on disability, justice for migrant workers, basic income, housing for ex-offenders, Indigenous ministry, anti-racism, and supporting marginalized neighbours during the pandemic. One workshop is **reserved for youth** 11-18 and youth leaders. [Registration opens Tuesday, September 8.](#)
- **A Reconciliation Walk:** This Indigenous justice series, sponsored by the Deacons of the Parkdale-West Toronto Deanery and York-Credit Valley Area, began Thursday September 17. But future events are planned for October 15, and for November 12, 19, and 26 a three-part event which will show and discuss **Doctrine of Discovery: Stolen Lands, Strong Hearts.**
- **Make your voice heard For the Love of Creation:** Sign the [e-petition](#) calling on the Canadian government to set ambitious carbon-reduction goals, invest in a just transition to a green economy, honour the rights of Indigenous peoples, and invest in climate adaptation and mitigation efforts for countries most impacted by the climate crisis. The Anglican Church of Canada is a member of the [For the Love of Creation](#) campaign along with many other Canadian churches and faith-based organizations. The petition will close **Oct. 6, 2020.**

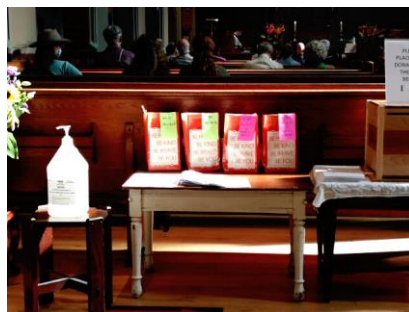
Thanks to Elin for her stimulating workshop. Consider participating in at least one of the sessions noted above – or go on-line to <https://www.toronto.anglican.ca/parish-life/social-justice-and-advocacy/current-activities/>.

Children’s Ministry

By Ian Greene

During the pandemic crisis, we are not allowed to hold church school classes in the church hall. However, we have made alternate church school activities available, as described below.

Thanks to Lee Jeffrey, at each 11 a.m. Sunday service there will be individual paper bags with crafts inside for children who attend with their parents or caregivers. There are two kinds of craft bags, one for younger children (JK to Grade 2), and one for those a little older (Grades 2 to 5). The crafts are matched to one of the readings in the church that



Children’s craft bags for pick-up at back of church

particular Sunday. During the past two Sundays, these craft bags have been used and appreciated. During the spring, we teamed up with St. Michael and All Angels to offer a “messy church” to younger children on Sunday afternoons once a month. Craft packages were delivered to the families who participated, and when “messy church” began, the children could open their packages, linked in with other children who were participating through Zoom. Stories were provided as the kids assembled their crafts. The messy church was very popular. The major problem was that most kids didn’t want to leave after an hour – a good sign.

Over the next few months, we will continue the messy church with St. Michael’s once a month and children from St. John’s West will also be joining us. I know the younger children will enjoy this. We will contact all families who participated in the spring messy church with details of our meetings. If you see this article and have a child whom you think might enjoy messy church, please email me at iangreene@rogers.com. I will sign your child up.

The Christian Education Committee at St. Martin’s has been considering the Children’s Ministry and how best to move forward to fulfill this essential ministry following Grace’s need to resign because of moving with her family to Guelph.

One of the gifts that St. Martin’s will be assembling for Grace to thank her for her amazing service to the St. Martin’s children’s ministry will be a photo album with photos of children’s activities taken by our parishioners while Grace was leader. Please send any photos that you have to Andrea Zinn azinn0821@gmail.com as soon as possible, but please no later than October 12.

The Youth Group

By Phil Snider

Here we are almost at the end of September and it has been an interesting month – back to school and church, just like other years, but not like other years. And here we are also at another milestone – the beginning of our Youth Group year.

So, our first Youth Group meeting is scheduled for Sunday, September 27th, 2020 at 1 p.m., hopefully in the garden, but, if not, in the parish hall. Masks will, of course, be mandatory and we’ll also continue to enforce social distancing. Unfortunately, we will not be able to supply food at this time. **Our meetings will be the last Sunday of every month**, so I hope you’ll pencil us into your calendars.

At that meeting, we'll have a chance to catch up with each other after six months away and I'll outline the plan for the year of Youth Group. This year we will feature two themes. First, a series on Everyday Faith in which we'll invite our fellow parishioners to talk to the youth about how they experience faith in their work as a way of modelling faith for the next generation and making connections across the parish. Second, a series on prayer looking at different approaches and styles of prayer to help our youth learn prayer as a lifelong practice.

I'm very much looking forward to the upcoming year in the Youth Group as well as exploring these themes together. If, by chance, you know of youth who would like to attend our meetings, please let me know.

Financial Update

By Philip Conliffe

The parish has entered the fall season, and the resumption of regular services in the church, in a comfortable financial position.

Year-to-date, total revenue is about \$25,000 less than budget. However, as expenses have been so much less than anticipated, we currently run a small surplus, again year-to-date, of about \$8,000. Reduced expenses stem from three main factors: our springtime Jubilee from the Diocese, in which clergy compensation and assessment were not charged; a large-scale deferral of scheduled capital repairs; and an overall drop in program and services expenditures during the time the church was closed.

However, looking forward, we hope to resume budgeted spending, especially for outreach.

I would ask each member of the parish to keep these ongoing needs in mind, for your regular donations, and, in this issue, the envelope for a Thanksgiving Festival offering. Thank you for considering this.

Possible Christmas Market

By Lee Jeffrey

Saturday, December 5, 2020, 2-4 p.m. is the tentative time for a Christmas Market, outdoors in the church garden. (This is all contingent on whether the provincial limits on numbers of people who can gather outdoors will make a Christmas Market feasible. Current regulations would permit only 25 people in the garden at any one time, so if we go ahead, it will be a much smaller event than before.) Watch the church web page and email announcements for updates.)

You can't travel to Christmas markets in Europe right now, so why not have one right here? We are in the planning stages for an outdoor Christmas Market. Many volunteers are needed to help with the planning, to run or to help at booths, or to welcome and control the flow of visitors. We will be asking for donations, including crafts, preserves, baked goods, and frozen meals. More information will follow on suitable items and packaging.

We can't have a traditional bazaar this year and we can't serve any food or drink (take-away only), but we think this will be a fun-filled alternative.

If you would like to get involved in this exciting new event, please contact one of the co-chairs:

- Lee Jeffrey, 416-762-0949, leehazeljeffrey@hotmail.com
- Kathie Wagg, 416-439-2171, waggfamily@bell.net

Concert in the Garden

By Ian Greene

On Wednesday, September 23, six members of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra presented free concerts in the St. Martin's garden. There were two concerts – one at 5 p.m. and one at 6 p.m. Fr. Philip emailed registration instructions, and no more than 25 people were allowed to be present in the garden during each concert – though a few neighbours listened from the fence. The performers played two clarinets, two bassoons, and two horns – shielded from the audience by plexiglass that made no difference to the sound. The 45-minute concerts included works by Rossini, Mozart and Beethoven.

It was a perfect evening weather-wise, and it was magical to experience a world quality musical performance while enjoying the garden and architecture of St. Martin's. It was an unforgettable evening. We are told more concerts are coming!



Step-by-Step Instructions for Attending Church

For **all services, ensure that you pre-register on Eventbrite at this link on your computer, cell phone or tablet: <https://stmartininthefields.ca/>. If you do not have access to one of these devices, phone St. Martin's at 416-767-7491 and leave a message in mailbox 3 to register.

**For all services, arrive 10 to 20 minutes early.

1. Before approaching the church, **put on your mask**. If you don't have a mask, you will be given one at the church. **No one can enter the church who is not wearing a mask.**
2. Meet the greeter at the main entrance to the church who will ask health questions and spray your hands with sanitizer.
3. When you enter the church, you will see the registrar at the bottom of the steps. She or he will record contact information. A sidesperson will gesture you to proceed up the steps. You or your group must be socially distanced six feet from other people or groups at all times.
4. There will be a leaflet for you to pick up from a table next to the collection box. If you wish to leave a donation, please insert it into the collection box.
5. A sidesperson will guide you to your pew. Keep your coat or jacket with you.
6. There will be no congregational singing.
7. There will be no movement from your pew during the Peace, in order to maintain physical distancing.
8. A sidesperson will indicate when you can move up the centre aisle for communion. You will receive only bread without kneeling, and it will be distributed without any physical contact. Recipients will step aside, adjust the mask to consume the host, replace their masks, sanitize their hands, and then return to their seats by walking down the north aisle.
9. At the end of the service, sidespeople will guide attendees out the main door of the church, while physical distancing is maintained.
10. Fr. Philip will greet attendees from outside the main door of the church while maintaining physical distancing.
11. Parishioners may stay in the garden for a short time to talk to others while maintaining physical distancing and **continuing to wear masks**. Please move into the garden from the door quickly so that we can avoid crowding at the door.