

St. Martin Episcopal Church, Pompano Beach
Letter of Parish Recovery
Hurricane Irma

September 15, 2017

Dear Friends and Members of St. Martin,

Our parish property has been damaged. The church worship spaces will not be ready by this Sunday for the 8:00 and 10:30 services due to possible mold. However, the parish hall is fully functional! We will celebrate together a low mass there beginning at 9:30 am. Casual dress is encouraged.

Our sister parish of St. Nicholas, located on Sample Road in Pompano Beach, has graciously extended an invitation for you to join them this Sunday morning at either 8:00 or 10:30. If you prefer a more formal worship style, feel free to join with them, or with another Episcopal parish.

Office hours will resume beginning on Tuesday morning at 9:45 a.m. At this time, due to possible mold issues, we are not sure where we will be working. Signs will be posted. Once the office is cleared of a potential mold concern we will resume operations there. At this time, we do not have a working land-line phone or internet access.

Weekday Services will also resume this Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. Until further notice, these will be held in the parish hall.

Please call parishioners you may know to determine how they have been impacted by the storm. If you discover any concerns, please call me immediately.

I ask that you continually offer prayer for those who are still suffering from the storm. Also, remember to lift up prayers of thanksgiving for our safety and greater well being.

I invite you to see the property damage and recovery reports enclosed with this letter.

My beloved friends and parishioners, let us remember to love one another, especially during this time, as we give aide to those in need.

In His Love,

Fr. Bernie+
561.716.9678

Parish Property Recovery Status

Tuesday, September 12th : Property Assessment by Staff:

No power in all buildings

No land phones

Water intrusion in the following spaces:

Offices Library

Ante Room Hallway

Sacristy Strong mildew odor

No water to parish hall, and all buildings north of the Bell Tower. This is due to a main waterline break

Many fallen trees, especially in the south section of the property

No broken windows

No damaged roofs

Office unit fence somewhat destroyed

Marquee roof somewhat damaged

Wednesday, September 13th

Building status unchanged.

Contacted Church Insurance: working the claim forms.

Bishop and diocesan clergy conference call regard parish concerns.

Water main to parish hall repaired.

Thursday, September 14th

Staff continued work to restore the interior property and insurance response.

Bishop and diocesan clergy conference call regard parish concerns.

Communication and planning continued with the Church Insurance Company.

The following have become operational:

All building lights

All AC units

Alarm for offices and church buildings

All water, including toilets

Marquee

Security cameras and monitor

Flag pole

The following are inoperable or not accessible:

Land phones

Internet

Office and church spaces due to potential mold

South parking lot due to fallen trees

Status unchanged:

 Fallen trees and other debris

 Wet carpets

Summary to Date: September 14th

The St. Martin property was one of the worst impacted in the diocese by Hurricane Irma. We are in communication with The Church Insurance Company and anticipate a meeting with their adjuster on Sunday. Until the adjuster makes her/his assessment, the office and worship spaces will be used sparingly, by staff only. As well, the exterior of the property will not be cleaned and restored until same is accomplished. I anticipate clean-up to begin by early next week. I am also in daily communication with the bishop and many other diocesan clergy regarding our status and to share helpful information.

The parish hall is operational and is clear of any water intrusion and mold. Please see the following schedule for our Sunday mass and weekday Services:

Sunday, September 17th, 9:30am, we will celebrate one Service, a low mass, in the parish hall. Dress casual.

St. Nicolas, Pompano Beach, located on Sample Road, has graciously welcomed our parishioners to worship with them at either their 8:00a.m or 10:30am. Services. Those who wish to have a more formal worship experience may want to join with them or another Episcopal parish.

We will continue our regular weekday worship schedule on Tuesday, September 19th. Until the Chapel is cleared for use, our worship space will be in the parish hall.

The parish hall supporting church and community organizations:

Bingo and Agape Café will resume this coming week provided they can muster enough staff.

We will also share the parish hall with our community 12 Step Programs and other congregations who presently use our church.

Ministry Community Program Leaders will need to offer effective communication and be patient as we all share this space.

The offices and church spaces:

Once the insurance adjuster has made the necessary assessment of our water

damaged floors and carpets, we will have them cleaned, or pulled up. Until such time these rooms will have limited use.

The parish exterior grounds:

Once our adjuster has made the appropriate assessment of our property damage, we will then hire persons to cut and remove the fallen trees and branches. We will attempt to restore the fallen Button trees on the swale.

Please hold up Janet in your prayers. Her father is dying and she will depart this Saturday to be with him during this time of transition. She will return to us next Saturday.

Our Next Steps:

I am asking each of you to call parishioners you may know to determine their status. If you learn of concerns, please notify me.

I am calling a Special Meeting of the Vestry for this coming Tuesday, September 19th at 5:00 p.m. I will notify you of our meeting location by Monday. At our meeting we will discuss all things pertinent to our recovery. As you are aware, our status changes daily. I will inform you of any major changes as they occur.