

Hello Everyone!

I had a great vacation in Florida. We had 80 degrees and sunny the whole time I was there, so I was very happy. I was looking forward to being back with all of you for Mass last weekend. I was very disappointed that Masses were cancelled, but that is what we need to do now so we can be safe. In times of crisis, to is really helpful for us to come together as a Parish Family, but that is not possible right now. If you are really anxious about the corona virus and are watching the news all day, I suggest that you stop doing that. Tune in for a limited time each day. Listen to the CDC and to what physicians have to say to get current information, and then turn it off. Watching the news all day will just increase your anxiety.

Almost everything in the Parish has been cancelled until April 6th. We will have the Easter outreach. So if you have items to bring in you can drop them off in the gathering space, 9:00 to 3:30. We will also have the Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Monday and the Finance Council Meeting on Tuesday.

If you are sick, stay home. If you are 65 years or older you are part of a vulnerable population you should stay home if possible. People of any age that have a chronic medical condition should also stay home if possible. Grandparents that do not live with grandchildren should not be together. I know this is really hard, but it is temporary. Children should stay at home and should not be going on play dates and to playgrounds. This defeats the purpose of closing the schools. I would encourage you to use technology to stay connected. Use Skype, Face Time and cell phones to stay connected. It can be fun. Be creative. Call people that you normally see. Call people who are home bound. You can have dinner with each other and watch TV together without being together physically by being creative with technology.

You will be spending extended time with family. This could be challenging at times, but it is an opportunity to spend some quality time together. Have family dinners. Watch the Dynamic Catholic videos and discuss them as a family. Pray the Rosary together. Spend time in personal prayer. Catch up on your reading.

I hate to bring up money at this time: however you understand that we must continue to pay our bills without the weekly Offertory Collections. This is a great time to begin on line giving. If you would like to do that, see the Parish web site to sign up. You could also mail your envelope to the Parish Office, or you can drop your offering in the mail slot at the Parish Office. The mailbox is secure.

A member of our parish family sent me the following prayer and I want to share it with you.

Prayer for a Pandemic (author unknown)

May we, who are merely inconvenienced, remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we, who have no risk factors, remember those most vulnerable.

May we, who have the luxury of working from home, remember those who must choose between

preserving their health or making their rent.

May we, who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close, remember those who have no options.

May we, who have to cancel our trips, remember those who have no safe place to go.

May we, who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market, remember those who have no margin at all.

May we, who settle in for a quarantine at home, remember those who have no home at all. As fear grips our country, let us choose faith, hope, and love. During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other, let us find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors.

Amen.

These are really trying times, but everything is going to be OK. It is really important that we follow the leadership that is being provided by the CDC, the President the Governor and the Archdiocese of Detroit. This will have a major impact on preventing the spread of the Corona virus.

Love and Peace,

Fr. Jim