

Dear Parishioners,

Since you last heard from me, there have been a number of developments that have taken place. Specifically, Our Bishop has put into practice a policy which involves temporary suspension of all public Masses, and restrictions on the celebration of the other sacraments. He writes, “this will be hard on all of us. The Eucharist and the sacraments are the very heart of our Catholic faith. After consulting with public health officials, however, we decided that it is our responsibility as citizens to work together with others in our communities to take measures to minimise the spread of COVID-19, and to care for those who are sick and most vulnerable as a result of this virus.”

To that end, we will all have to make sacrifices and works of charity for the common good. Lent is a season of fasting. In a very real sense, we are fasting from the Eucharist, fasting from sacraments from the way we are used to celebrating them, fasting from our Churches being open, fasting from devotions at our Church and the list can go on. Through this pandemic, let us be people of hope. I am reminded of a reading that comes from St. Paul to the Romans. “Nothing therefore can come between us and love of God, even if we are troubled or worried , or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even being attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of Him who loved us.”

Your homes are domestic churches where you can pray, and cultivate a spirit of prayer. This is a time when we need to work together, and to take care of one another and to pray for one another. Let us also be vigilant in following the directives of our health authorities. Stay healthy and strong in the faith.

I offer this prayer from St. Ignatius. “O Christ Jesus, when all is darkness and we feel our weakness and helplessness, give us the sense of your presence, your love,

and your strength. Help us to have perfect trust in your protecting love and strengthening power, so that nothing may frighten or worry us.”

Be assured that your priests are praying for you and trying to find ways to reach out to you. Please call the office and we can help you by phone or email.

Yours in Christ,

Father Bester