

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In these difficult times, we are facing challenges that just a week ago, few thought possible. First, I want to assure you that I am praying for each of you and remembering you at my daily private Holy Mass. Many have reached out with assurances of prayer and offers of help. I cannot tell you how grateful I am for all of you. When I said “Let’s be Saints together” I did not know how it was going to happen but it turns out that God has given us a path forward and while we did not choose this, it is the cross we are called to carry.

Here are current plans and suggestions:

**Weekend Mass:** Sunday mass will be recorded and posted on our Vimeo channel as well as broadcasted on ETC’s Good News Cable Channel. More details about accessing these will be forthcoming. **I strongly recommend that you find an online mass at a time you normally go to mass, and pray together as a family.** Note that there are lots of places right now for online Mass and Holy Hours so you could spiritually join in Mass almost any time of the day or night.

**Daily Mass:** Plans will be forthcoming.

**Eucharistic Adoration:** This afternoon, there will be a temporary tabernacle set up in a front window of the new building. **I strongly encourage you to keep your regularly scheduled Holy Hour** or to make a visit to the Blessed Sacrament. Park in the new parking lot facing the building and **remain** in your car. There are no bathrooms available so if you cannot stay for the whole hour don’t worry.

**Abstinence from Meat on Friday:** The Archbishop has NOT granted a dispensation for this, but if you’re like me, it’s hard to remember what day it is. If you accidentally had meat yesterday, remember that an accident is not a sin.

**Confessions:** The restriction on individual confession remains in effect (only in danger of death). However, we hope for some further instructions from the Archdiocese soon.

**Holy Water:** Blessed and Exorcised Holy Water is available on the back porch of the rectory at St Nicholas. There is additional Holy Water in the orange buckets. If you can, please use these buckets to refill the dispenser as needed. Remember to bring your own bottles.

**Ongoing Formation and Prayer:** We will be sending out more frequent emails with updates and ideas regarding formation and prayer. Please reach out to anyone that you know who doesn’t receive FlockNote messages and help them sign up. My talk about the “Four Building Blocks of a Vibrant Interior Life” will also be available on the Good News Channel as well as through our parish website and Vimeo channel. Please consider watching these talks to be sure that your own personal prayer life is happening. Closer to Holy Week we will make available my talk on “A Walk Through Holy Week.”

**Supporting the Parish:** The financial needs of the parish continue. The school is using eLearning days after spring break is over and our staff is working hard from home to keep things going. Please help us keep our parishes running. Before this happened, St Nicholas was behind on Sunday collections and St Anthony was only slightly ahead, so the need is very real. Options to consider: online giving through the link on the parish website, mailing your donation to the parish, (We are processing mail every few days, so there might be a short delay in depositing it.). Soon a secured drop box will be in place at both parishes. We will update you on that soon.

**Contacting Father:** I am responding to emails, texts, and phone calls as fast as I can, but I simply cannot answer everyone's questions individually. It is critically important that people read and understand the updates through FlockNote and Facebook. Also, I would encourage you to follow me on Twitter and Instagram at @FrSPW and use #SaintsTogether for all your posts so that we can see how each of us are-

Becoming Saints Together!

Fr Shaun Whittington