
THE CHURCH OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

900 MADISON AVENUE • ALBANY, NEW YORK 12208 • (518) 489-5408

March 16, 2020

Dear St. Vincent's Parishioners and Friends:

In this time of crisis with regard to the coronavirus (COVID -19) one is assaulted by strong emotions: fear; anxiety; uncertainty; frustration; the urge to take action and a sense of powerlessness. Perhaps you could name a few others.

Although Masses, except for funerals and weddings have been cancelled, I and your St. Vincent's staff continue to serve our community in whatever ways are possible.

- Pastoral Care visits continue through phone calls and cards. However, a personal visit with Holy Communion may be requested.
- The Blessed Sacrament Chapel is available for personal prayer, Monday – Friday from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Please use the parking lot entrance for access.
- Our Food Pantry and its volunteers continue to serve our neighbors, limiting physical interaction. With people being out of work and children out of school for an extended period of time, we anticipate that its service may be even more necessary. Your continued financial support is invaluable.
- While we cannot gather to celebrate the Eucharist, we can pray together and for each other. Whatever your preferred Mass time is, may we make a commitment to each other to use that time to read the scriptures of the day and reflect on their meaning for us as individuals and a community. Through our bulletin and website we have also posted on-line and televised resources for Mass and spiritual support.
- Our bulletin will continue to be published and posted on-line. If you would like to receive a printed copy, please call Meg in the parish office and one will be mailed to you.
- Finally, even though we are not gathering for Mass, St. Vincent's must continue to meet its financial obligations for utilities, insurance, salaries, etc. I invite and encourage you to mail your offertory envelope into the parish (900 Madison Ave. Albany, 12208) or participate in on-line giving (<http://stvincentalbany.org/donate>.) Your financial support will allow us to maintain our services and facilities.

In closing, I offer my on-going prayers for you and those you love, for health, safety and well-being. Together, let us pray for those affected by this illness and for the medical and government personnel entrusted with managing its impact.

Above all, let us hold onto St. Paul's words to the Philippians, "I can do all things through him who strengthens me" (4:14.)

With deep affection for you, in Christ,

Elizabeth