



Our Lady of Consolation Church
1799 Hamburg Turnpike, Wayne, NJ 07470
A Roman Catholic Community Devoted to Stewardship
Founded 1963



March 23, 2020

My Dear Friends,

This is a critical time for the world and our parish family. We are faced with a global health crisis that radically alters the routine of our daily lives, severely challenges our economic future and will undoubtedly change our world view for years to come.

As your pastor and friend, my primary concern is for you and your family. We take as our model and inspiration Jesus, whose primary mission, as the gospel tells us, was as a healer, counselor and lover of the sick, the weak and the outcast. I beg you to not lose sight of your faith commitment to Jesus Christ as He is revealed to us in the gospel and in the Eucharist.

I ask for your continued prayers as we face this challenge together. Please know I will be praying for you and it is my heart's desire that we will all emerge from this crisis in good health and still committed to the faith we love. I suggest that since we are spending considerably more time at home, why not take the opportunity to pray as a family and perhaps even engage in some bible reading, particularly the gospels, calming and strengthening our heart, mind and soul.

I have asked our staff to each share with you their thoughts and concerns as they pertain to the management and operation of our parish in this difficult time. They are the best parish staff any parish could hope for; which I know you are aware of. They will convey their concerns to you in this letter and I urge you to keep abreast of the ever-changing scope of the present crisis as it affects us.

I know that the financial uncertainty we all face weighs heavily upon us. A parishioner conveyed to me just yesterday that he was furloughing almost 60% of his work force. With this in mind, we have frozen all but emergency expenditures. With the help of the finance council, we will monitor our financial situation on a daily basis. Your support through the years has been heartfelt and generous. In the present situation, please continue to help us as best you can.

God Bless You, my dear friends and may the Lord keep you safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Reverend Michael D. Lombardo
Pastor

From Our Parish Manager, Torrie Trentacost

Choose Faith Over Worry ...

We will all find our way through this crisis as we have others in the past. Father Michael will continue to celebrate daily mass privately and honor the intentions of those who have made offerings for loved ones. Calls will be made to individual parishioners to check up on them and their needs. We also hope to expand our Flocknote communication service (which is currently being used by our CCD program) to include all members of the parish. **We ask that you send your e-mail address and cell phone number to e.walsh@olcchurch.com so you can be added and receive any updates.** Father Michael will also utilize Calling Post if need be. Bulletins and updates will still be available on our website, www.olcparish.org. Please do not forget about us during this tragic situation because God has not forgotten you!

At this time, all Masses and Ministry activities have been suspended. As of Monday, March 23rd, the Parish Center will be closed. The staff will continue to check e-mails and voice mails. We will use the mail box located outside of the Parish Center along with a green tub for any items that need to be dropped-off or picked-up. The building and grounds will continue to be maintained. All interior spaces will be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized.

In lieu of the current situation we are postponing our biggest fundraiser for the 2020 fiscal year, the Tricky Tray which had been scheduled for April 29th. Our plans for the Golf Outing (currently scheduled for June 25th) are uncertain at this time. This revenue is much needed to sustain our budget. Everyone has a budget in their own personal lives and so do we here at OLC. As things continue to unfold, we will try to come up with alternate means of giving to cover the revenue loss from such events.

Our Faith will guide us to make the right decisions. Although we want to spend quality time with our family and friends and attend Mass daily or weekly, we must not be exposed to or pass on COVID-19 to others. Take the necessary precautions and watch the news for the most current updates. You can also visit the Diocese of Paterson website at www.patersondiocese.org/coronavirus.

God Bless our OLC Family and God Bless America.

From Our Parish Secretary, Diane Snowden

Our parishioners are part of a special church community; we are a **parish family**. During these challenging times, this has never been more important or felt more deeply by me as it does now in light of what we face together. At one time or another, I may have spoken to you to plan a Baptism, a Wedding or perhaps it was my pleasure to help you in some other way.

With the possible exposure to the coronavirus being first and foremost on our minds, as the secretary of the parish office, I will do my best to keep the parish office functioning while keeping within the guidelines set forth by the civil authorities and the Office of the Bishop of the Paterson Diocese. *In what way can the church office continue to help our parishioners during this difficult time?* The details that follow are here to help keep you safe while fulfilling your needs. We must take every possible step to protect the safety and health of our parishioners and parish staff.

Mass Cards can still be obtained, but will ONLY be provided by calling the parish office at 973-839-3444 X 111 or e-mailing d.snowden@olcchurch.com with your request. Completed Mass cards will be left in the mailbox on the outside of the Parish Center building. Please leave your donation of \$15.00 per Mass in the mailbox when cards are picked up. The same procedure will be followed if a Sponsor Certificate is needed for a Baptism or Confirmation and will be provided to you for pick-up if you are a full member of Our Lady of Consolation Church.

As per the Bishop of Paterson, the following information regarding Baptisms will be effective immediately. Until further notice all Baptisms within the parish setting are deferred except in the case of urgent necessity. How we move forward with the celebration of upcoming weddings will be reviewed by our office and we will monitor information as it is received.

You are all my parish family too. So, when struggles come upon us, through love, we pray for one another and we try to serve one another as best as we can. I truly pray that God will watch over you all and keep you safe in these uncertain times.

From Our Ministry Center Manager, Kim Manza

To Our Valued Parishioners,

Nothing is more important during these challenging times than the health and well-being of our family and friends and the greater community. As manager of Our Lady of Consolation's Ministry Center, I want to let you know we will be suspending all Ministry Center activities until further notice. As Chairperson of our annual Tricky Tray, I would like to let you know that our Tricky Tray (originally scheduled for April 29th) will be postponed until Monday, October 19, 2020. We ask that you continue forward with the purchase of tickets for the event and we will also be accepting donations to ensure a successful fundraising event. Please contact me at 973-945-3222 with any questions.

Best wishes for health and well-being as we push through this challenging time together.

From Our Director of Religious Education, Debbie Dericks

To all my Religious Education Families,

During this difficult time, I want to reach out to let you know I am thinking of you and your families. We are a great community of compassion and support for one another and I hope you join me in praying for each other as we navigate these uncertain waters. I understand how frustrating life can be right now. Amidst these times of uncertainty, as people of faith we must put our trust in God's abiding mercy.

Since we are unsure at this time if we will be able to meet again in April, I plan to put together an on-line faith formation lesson your children can work on at home. I am grateful we were able to make it to just a couple of weeks before the session ended but with Easter being the center of the Catholic faith, I do not want classes to end without properly addressing this very meaningful Liturgical season.

First Holy Communions have been suspended until further notice. In the meantime, 2nd graders will be working on their lessons at home. This allows them to further their studies and be ready for when the celebration can take place.

I will be in touch in the coming weeks. Stay healthy and be well.

From Our Director of Youth Ministry, Laura Haftek

During this crisis, our lives are on hold. Our faith has given us an opportunity to live out the Paschal Mystery of Christ in our own lives. Like Jesus, we are called to make sacrifices and even suffer, as our comfort zone is stripped away. Each of us is called to carry a heavy cross that weighs heavily on our shoulders. Jesus endured each step, knowing that before things got better, they'd still get worse first.

Just as autumn turns to winter and winter turns to spring. We will experience rebirth. In faith, we look forward to our Resurrection Day.... our Easter when we celebrate Christ's glory that conquers and overcomes even death. We are hope-filled Catholics. Together, we will rise and go forth.

Until then, please know that we are keeping our Confirmation Candidates on their journey. All final Confirmation interviews are taking place using a FaceTime conference. Lesson assignments and Holy Week Reflections will be e-mailed. Candidates will receive "service hours" for writing letters and cards to those who are alone and longing for human contact. They are encouraged to help their elderly neighbors with their spring clean-up without coming in direct contact with them. Instead of a Youth Group activity, they are asked to organize two family activities that include at least one parent, themselves, and one other family member such as a family puzzle, board game, movie night, BBQ, family hike, spring clean-up, play ball, bake or cook together. And instead of going to Mass, they must either watch Mass on TV or have a family candlelit prayer service. All of these activities must be photographed or videotaped and sent in. I am so excited to see how they will creatively keep Jesus in their lives to bring them hope for our world's RESURRECTION!

Please join me in prayer for all who are infected with the coronavirus and all of our healthcare workers and volunteers who are caring for them. God is giving us a gift to spend time at home with our family and to appreciate what's really important in life. In Jesus, we will get through these dark and challenging times. May the Lord bless you and your family!

From Our Business Manager, Elena Walsh

To Our OLC Family,

As Father Michael stated, we realize that the financial uncertainty that this crisis brings weighs heavily on all of us. As Business Manager my main focus is the financial well-being of our parish. As you are aware, our parish exists almost exclusively through parishioner contributions.

We are asking every parishioner, if able, to continue their regular contributions even though they will not be able to attend Mass. We are grateful to those parishioners who are currently enrolled in our Electronic Giving Program as well as those who contribute on a regular basis through their own financial institutions, as it helps provide us with a necessary steady cash flow. However, these contributions alone are not enough to sustain us through this crisis. At this time, we are encouraging all parishioners to consider ways they can help and we are proposing the following alternative solutions.

ON-LINE GIVING has been introduced and is available on our website. There is now a link on the home page of our website www.olcparish.org directly to our On-Line Giving page. Here you will be able to make contributions on either a one-time basis or a recurring basis. You can modify or discontinue donations at any time.

ELECTRONIC GIVING enrollment is available by submitting a form as we have done in the past. The form is available on our website. You can print the form, complete it and either e-mail, fax or mail it to the Parish Center. Specific instructions are on the website. If you cannot access the form on the website, please contact me. I can be reached at 973-839-3444 Ext. 115 or e.walsh@olcchurch.com. You can also contact your own financial institution and setup automatic payments to OLC with them.

Finally, you can simply mail or drop off your contributions (using the mailbox located outside) at your convenience to the Parish Center office. Please address contributions to the attention of Joe Donnelly, our Director of Stewardship.

I am hoping that everyone stays safe during this troubling time and wish you all the best.



ON A POSITIVE NOTE



Spring has sprung and the flowers are beginning to grow!

Try to take nice long walks and breathe the fresh air.

Every day is a gift. Enjoy time with your family.

Take a moment to see the sunrise and the sunsets... also wonderful gifts from God.

Let each of us count our Blessings.

Always have positive thoughts and remember that Easter will soon be upon us.

We look forward to celebrating Mass as a parish family once again.

God Bless all of our Parishioners and their Families