

March 18, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I pray that you are well. I must share with you that it is strange to hear the bells of the church and not see people running to Our Lady of Peace.

As you are aware, the Bishops of Ohio have suspended all public liturgies through Easter Sunday. I was very much looking forward to celebrating my first Holy Week with you as your pastor. I am sad that our candidates will be forced to delay their entrance into the Catholic Church. I am saddened that our homebound will not be able to receive the Eucharist for a while.

But during this time, as members of the one Body of Christ we need to be mindful of one another, to look out for and look after one another, to pray for one another. Most especially for the most vulnerable among us, the elderly, and those with compromised immune systems, and those whose poor health make them most susceptible to the corona virus. I also encourage you to pray for all our health care workers, and all the many people who are serving us at great danger to themselves. And please pray for yourselves and your families and exercise common sense and follow the directives of health officials in the protection of your health.

To help mature your spiritual life you can also watch the Mass on TV on EWTN or listen to it on St. Gabriel Catholic Radio (AM 820) each day at 12:05pm or on any one a number of websites that will be livestreaming the Mass.

Our past three Lenten Sunday Gospels have proven to be foundational for us during this time. We heard of: Jesus in the desert, the Transfiguration of Jesus, and the Samaritan woman. This past weekend, the Samaritan woman wanted the living water. We find ourselves with the Samaritan woman. We thirst. We pray. We trust. God thirsts for us during this time.

Please know that as I celebrate Mass privately each day on our behalf, we will be together in fellowship with the Holy Spirit.

We will inform you on any updates on directives by postings to the parish website. Since this is an ever changing situation I encourage you to check the diocesan website (<https://columbuscatholic.org>) and Our Lady of Peace website (<https://olp-parish.org>) for more details.

You can contact to me by email: sdooley@columbuscatholic.org

Under the guidance of Our Lady of Peace,

Fr. Sean M. Dooley
Pastor