From the Pastor’s Desk

Dear Friends in Christ,

More than a month ago, Judge Hidalgo issued the Stay Home, Work Safe Order for Harris County. This Order and the whole Coronavirus situation has had an immediate impact on our normal day-to-day lives. We have had to operate differently and, in this past month, our parish has had to operate a little differently as well. Public Masses have been suspended, we livestreamed the Triduum, our teachers teach our students online, etc. While things have had to operate a little bit differently, that doesn’t mean our parish is completely quiet! Please allow me to give you an update on some of the things going on here:

• After consultation with the Pastoral Council, Finance Council, insurance company, contractors, architect and various parishioners, we have decided to begin the church floor project because we are currently out of the church. (If you recall, a pipe burst in January and flooded the church. Our insurance company said we need to redo the whole floor.) Great progress has already been made, and we hope to have the project completed as soon as possible, perhaps by the end of May. Stay tuned for updates.

• Our parish office remains open with limited services because there are essential functions that have to be completed. Feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

• We are continuing moving forward with filling several key staff positions including a Director of Faith Formation and a Facilities Manager. When we are able to return to our normal parish life, expect to see plenty of activity and planning for the future!

• Our Faith Formation Office is implementing CCE lesson plans for whole family participation. Additionally, when we are able to worship in public again, we will set up dates for first communions and RCIA.

• We have been able to work on other maintenance projects. The new roof for the school is near completion, and we have replaced corroded pipes around campus to prevent pipes from bursting in the future.

Personally, this situation is quite bizarre. I never could have imagined that my first Triduum as the shepherd of a parish would be in an empty church. I greatly miss performing my priestly duties for our community, and I certainly miss seeing all of you. Please know how much I greatly appreciate how so many of our parishioners have stepped up to support the parish, both spiritually and financially. Maintain hope and know that we will all be together again!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Clark
Queridos amigos en Cristo:

Hace más de un mes, la juez Hidalgo emitió la orden Quedarse en casa, Trabaje seguro para el condado de Harris. Esta Orden y toda la situación del Coronavirus ha tenido un impacto inmediato en nuestra vida cotidiana. Hemos tenido que operar de manera diferente y, en el último mes, nuestra parroquia también ha tenido que funcionar de manera un poco diferente. Se suspendieron las misas públicas, transmitimos en vivo el Triduo, nuestros catequistas enseñan a nuestros estudiantes en línea, etc. Si bien las cosas han tenido que funcionar de manera un poco diferente, ¡eso no significa que nuestra parroquia esté completamente en silencio! Permítame darle una actualización sobre algunas de las cosas que están sucediendo aquí:

• Después de consultar con el Consejo Pastoral, el Consejo de Finanzas, la compañía de seguro, contratistas, el arquitecto y varios feligreses, hemos decidido comenzar el proyecto del piso de la iglesia porque actualmente estamos fuera de la iglesia. (Si recuerdan, una tubería explotó en enero e inundó la iglesia. Nuestra compañía de seguros dijo que necesitamos rehacer todo el piso). Ya se han hecho grandes avances, y esperamos tener que completar el proyecto lo antes posible, tal vez Finales de mayo. Estén atentos para las actualizaciones.

• Nuestra oficina parroquial permanece abierta con servicios limitados porque hay funciones esenciales que deben completarse. No dude en contactarnos si tiene alguna pregunta.

• Continuamos avanzando para cubrir varios puestos claves del personal, incluyendo un Director de Formación de Fe y un Administrador de Instalaciones. Cuando podamos regresar a nuestra vida parroquial normal, ¡esperemos ver mucha actividad y planificación para el futuro!

• Nuestra Oficina de Formación de Fe está implementando planes de lecciones de CCE para la participación de toda la familia. Además, cuando podamos adorar nuevamente en público, estableceremos fechas para las primeras comuniones y RICA.

• Hemos podido trabajar en otros proyectos de mantenimiento. El nuevo techo de la escuela está casi terminado, y hemos reemplazado las tuberías corroídas alrededor del campus para evitar que las tuberías se rompan en el futuro

Personalmente, esta situación es bastante extraña. Nunca podría haber imaginado que mi primer Triduo como pastor de la parroquia estaría en una iglesia vacía. Extraño mucho realizar mis deberes sacerdotales para nuestra comunidad, y ciertamente extraño verlos a ustedes. Por favor, sepa cuánto aprecio mucho cómo tantos de nuestros feligreses se han unido para apoyar a la parroquia, tanto espiritual como económicamente. ¡Mantenga la esperanza y sepa que todos volveremos a estar juntos!

De ustedes en Cristo,

Fr. Clark
All scheduled weekday Mass intentions are being fulfilled. You will be notified if it is necessary to reschedule your requested intention for a Saturday or Sunday Mass.

### Mass Intentions

**On The Cover**

Tiffany Studios  
Leaded Favrile Glass Window  
Christ on the Road to Emmaus  
Circa 1912-1917

### Spiritual Tools While Being Unable to Attend Mass

- **Pray...** the Divine Office, the official prayer of the Church. (Resource: [divineoffice.org](http://divineoffice.org))
- **Pray...** the Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
  (Resource: [How to Pray the Rosary](http://howtopraytherosary.com))
- **Pray...** the Scriptures or Lectio Divina  
  (Resource: what is and how to do, [Lectio Divina](http://lectio-divina.net))
- **Pray...** to make an Act of Spiritual Communion  
  (Resource: [explanation and how to](http://explanationandhowto.com))
- **Pray...** as a family, the domestic church.
- **Pray...** in silent meditation, to seek the Lord in the caverns of our hearts, as we give praise and thanksgiving to him and listen to His words as guides us on our earthly pilgrimage of faith.
Upcoming Events

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul: This last month the SVdP food pantry was closed for food distribution to our community and the March food fair and food drive was cancelled. Although we were not on campus, The Society at STM remains committed to helping those less fortunate in our immediate area. Vincentians were, and still are, helping with food distributions at other locations and continuing to assist friends with financial assistance through phone interviews. Links for various resources were added to the SVdP page of STM’s website to aid in the search for food or other needs (see quick link on home page).

We are pleased to announce that we are now preparing to re-stock and re-open the pantry in compliance with Covid-19 safety requirements. While we work with the Houston Food Bank to obtain food (fresh produce, baked goods, etc.), we request your help to supplement the order. SVdP will host a mobile food drive in the pantry parking lot this week April 27, April 29 & May 1. Both food and monetary donations will be accepted between 9 am – 12 pm. Just drive on by and a volunteer will receive your donations from your vehicle. Please contact the pantry office for more information at (713) 980-3113 or e-mail us at svdp.district3stm@gmail.com.

Mobile Food Drive
Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Food Items Needed:
Peanut butter, Jelly, Cereal, Canned vegetables, Tomato sauce, 1-2 lb bags of Rice and Pinto beans
Thank you and God bless you!

“Charity is the cement which binds Communities to God and persons to one another . . .” - St. Vincent de Paul

STM Online

STM Homepage
STM Facebook
STM YouTube Channel

Stewardship for April 19, 2020

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Upcoming Special Collections

Home Missions Collection
April 26, 2020
Catholic Communications
May 24, 2020

Parish Goal: $193,000.00
Total Amount Pledged: $61,117.50
Total Amount Paid: $41,940.50
Total Number of Participant: 183
Total Number of Households: 4184
Average Participant Pledge: $333.98
Paid Over (Under) Goal: ($151,059.50)
Pledged Over (Under) Goal: ($131,882.50)
Percent Paid: 21.73%

Online Giving

Please remember STM while away from the parish. Our church’s website has instructions on how to register for convenient on-line giving. You will have full control of your contribution account and scheduling. Visit our homepage at STMHOUSTON.ORG for details and registration.