

Dear Parishioners of Saint Anastasia,

As I sit at my desk and look out the window I see a very eerie sight – a totally empty parking lot! As most of you know, this is indeed a rarity here at Saint Anastasia. It is so obvious to me that Saint Anastasia Parish is nothing without **you**. Father Dwyer, the members of the parish staff and I hope you and your families are well and making the best of these trying times. Be assured that you are remembered in our prayers. Please pray also for us.

Please avail yourself of the many social media religious presentations that are available. Share with each other what you have found. FORMED is a great place to start. Bishop Barron's website Wordonfire.org and EWTN offer daily Mass. Although public Mass in the church has been suspended please know that Father Dwyer and I are saying Mass privately for you and the scheduled Mass intentions are being fulfilled as we ask God to bring about a speedy resolution to this crisis so we may once again gather together in our church and give praise to God. **We will live stream Mass from our church on Sundays at 10:30 AM.**

Although there are no public Masses offered for the time being, our church will remain open for your visits to Our Lord in the tabernacle every day from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, except Sundays when it will be open from Noon until 4:00 PM. Please use the door in the front of the church by the Blessed Mother statue adjacent to the parking lot. This is meant to be a quiet time for your personal prayer and reflection so please observe a respectful silence and observe the social distancing posture that we are all learning to adopt. Confessions will be heard on Saturday from 4:00 to 4:45 PM.

Please consult the website and Facebook every day for any changes, additions, or revisions that may occur. Call one another. Check on each other. It is said that "absence makes the heart grow fonder." May "social distancing" draw us closer together. May our inability to be in the presence of the Lord in our church help us to realize that He is indeed alive and dwelling within each one of us. May we place our trust in Him in all things.

Like all of you and your families, our parish will be facing serious financial hardships in the days ahead. Let us pray for one another that financial insecurity and economic uncertainty will not be a source of fear or panic. Please try to continue to support St. Anastasia Parish to the extent that you are able. As you are so well aware, the bills keep coming. Your consideration and help in this regard is greatly appreciated. May we all pray for those who struggle financially.

This Sunday is the Fourth Sunday of Lent. The Responsorial Psalm is Psalm 23, words that are familiar to all of us: "The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want." Take out your Bible and pray this Psalm. Gather your family and make it something you pray together each day for we are indeed walking in a "dark valley." But our faith tells us that the Lord will lead us to running waters and give us the courage we need to endure this trial.

May God bless you and keep you safe.

Sincerely yours,
Father Colagreco