



Church of Saint Bernard

1160 Woodbridge St. Saint Paul, Minnesota 55117 (651) 488-6733 Fax (651) 489-9203

March 27, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

As surely as the Lord is active in every event, he has allowed the present circumstances around the current executive stay-at-home order. But, why? We are being called to our homes, away from what distracts us, to see what is in our hearts. As we spend this time in solitude, we might experience moments of anxiety, uncertainty and the fear of death. We might experience darkness. Yet the Church has also given us this time of Lent, culminating in Easter, to see the Lord lead us through the desert into the Promised Land; to see the Lord bring us from darkness to light. The true light is Christ, and whoever believes in him has eternal life (cf. Jn. 3:14-21). To believe in him is to experience eternal life, and this eternal life comes to you today. The mark of the Christian is that he or she carries this light, this hope. This light can illumine your situation today:

- Perhaps you are caring for someone who is elderly, vulnerable, or maybe you are elderly or vulnerable yourself: I am available to you anytime of the day or night.
- Perhaps you are a parent tasked with homeschooling your kids on top of working from home: you are in my prayers: may God grant you the strength and patience to face this time with love.
- Perhaps you are a young person home from school or work: the Lord invites you to be patient, to see that these events form us, helping us to discover the true purpose of our life.

May God grant you peace in this time! Our parish is still here to care for you:

- **We will have the doors of our church open throughout the day for private prayer.**
- Please contact us if you desire the **sacraments**. Under the executive order, Fr. Joseph and I, along with the volunteers and employees of our parish, are “faith leaders and workers,” whose role extends to “*wherever their services may be needed.*”

We would like to offer our gratitude for the following:

- Thanks to our Director of Religious Education, David Neira, for organizing online faith formation classes for those in sacramental preparation. Thank you to Diana Orellana, who will be offering online faith formation classes for Confirmation II, and to our RCIC instructors—Patricia & Angel Hernandez, Jason Hernandez and Miriam Omaña—who will be offering classes for First Communion.
- Thank you to all of our benefactors! We are immensely grateful to have continued receiving contributions to our parish, and we invite you to keep supporting our parish mission through donations, which you can mail to our address (see above) or online on our web site. For direct transfer, call the parish office.

Finally, we are also grateful to announce that we will continue livestreaming our Masses from the chapel (links for livestreaming is found on the main page of our website www.stbernardstpaul.org Monday-Saturday at 8:30am, Saturday evenings at 4:00pm, and Sundays at 8:00am, 10:30am and 12:00pm (Spanish). May God bless you and grant you the grace to know him and desire him deeply in this time!

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Ivan Sant,
Pastor