

“Today is holy to the Lord your God. Do not be sad, and do not weep; for today is holy to our Lord. Do not be saddened this day, for rejoicing in the Lord must be your strength!” Nehemiah 8:9-10, from the Morning Prayer of the Church.

Today is commonly known as *Laetare* Sunday, which means we are half way through the Season of Lent. With all the craziness of the coronavirus we can lose track of time. Yet it is important that we do not lose these precious days of reflection, prayer, fasting and almsgiving and whatever other ways you are marking this holy season.

It is very hard not to be able to gather for mass, to see each other, to hear the Word of God together and receive Holy Communion. But the church was open this morning and I'd say about 30 people came and went, spent time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, prayed the rosary and read the Scriptures for this Sunday. I hope you have had a chance to observe the holiness of this day in some special way, perhaps watching Mass on TV or on the internet. Remember that the Diocese of Reno website has many suggestions and links. Their webpage is: renodiocese.org.

We are working on perhaps setting up a live-streamed mass through YouTube, so please stay tuned to our website for this and other details. We also are trying to form phone prayer circles of six parishioners, each in the circle checking in on the other and praying for each other. If you'd like to be a part of that, please call the parish office: 329-2571.

Thank you to those who have asked about how they can send in their offertory and support the parish. You may do so by mail or it would be especially helpful if you would start on-line giving. Just look on the banner at the top of our home page and click “on-line giving” and it will take you to that link and walk you through it. Every bit helps right now especially. If you have any questions call the parish office and ask for MaryAnn. Thank you!

While I don't believe that God has given us this terrible virus, I do think that God may be using it now to help us realize how often we forget and act as though we are not connected, as though we have just ourselves to worry about. In the gospel today the healing of the “man born blind” had powerful affects on others – and even for us these many centuries later. Let us continue to pray for one another and to reach out to each as best and safely as we can.

**Joy, peace and hope in the Lord,
Fr. Chuck**