



Saint Joseph

CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Marcus Chidozie, Pastor

“Do not be afraid.” Matt. 1:20

March 23, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am writing this letter to you today for three specific reasons. First to find out if any of you need special assistance. Second, I want to ask for your assistance in supporting our parish. Lastly, I ask that you will join me in praying to St Joseph, guardian and protector of the Church and families, to intercede for the Universal Church and the world as we navigate through this challenging time in our history.

We are in extremely trying times. Never in my lifetime has it occurred to me that we could not find a way to participate in the Holy Sacrifice of Mass. Now it is as if we are all a community of shut-ins, despite feeling perfectly healthy. Indeed, it would be unfair of me not to acknowledge the financial burden each of you is under. I am aware of the enormous negative impact this global pandemic has caused to our families, churches and the economic world. I am very optimistic that some of you can indeed weather this crisis. However, if you are in dire straits, please do not hesitate to reach out to us, your Faith Community. St. Joseph parish still remains your family and friend. Please remember that God continues to share His Love with every one of us, so take courage and know that you are not alone. The Parish Council, the Finance Committee and the other groups at St. Joseph's are here for you.

For those of you who can, please I would ask that you continue to support our parish with your weekly contributions. You can mail your contributions to St Joseph Catholic Church, P. O. Box 832, Commerce, TX 75429-0832. For the past few weeks, our weekly collections have become nearly non-existent because we have not been able to come together to celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of Mass. The Finance Committee has told us that we have a weekly need of about \$3,000 to meet our routine needs. In addition to that we have a monthly need to pay \$3,400 on our mortgage. On my own side, I assure you that I have taken steps to reduce the electricity usage and trim expenses wherever I can to keep costs in check. Anyway, I still need to ask you to remember that any support to our parish no matter how small will be greatly appreciated.

St Joseph is not just our parish patron. St Joseph is the patron saint of families and workers. Pope Pius IX declared him the protector of the Catholic Church in view of his role to the Holy Family. For this reason, we look to him as the model father, the protector and provider for the Holy Family. At this moment of crisis, I call on all our parishioners to follow the good example of St. Joseph. I urge everyone to be the protector and provider for our parish family. I ask that you pray to St Joseph to intercede for our Church and the whole world. Make your request known, be it for protection of your health or for a stronger economy so that those who lost their jobs can get their jobs back soon, then pray:

St Joseph, Guardian of the Word Incarnate, I feel confident that your prayers in my behalf will be graciously heard before the throne of God. Amen.

Yours, in Christ Jesus,

Reverend Marcus Chidozie, Ph.D.