



THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF PARMA

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

2020/56

April 3, 2020

Dear Fathers, Catechists, and Faithful of the Eparchy of Parma,

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Our God is providential! Let us seek His will during this holy season. Because we understandably find ourselves subject to protective orders from our civil authorities such as “quarantine” or “shelter in place,” to you, the faithful of our Eparchy, I extend this exhortation: Please use this time which God has provided to cultivate godly habits, to more fully develop your personal and family prayer life, and to find new ways to participate in the daily life of our beloved Catholic Church. I have listed some of the many faith-enriching opportunities available to you and your families; become familiar with them and decide how you can make use of them.

- **First, Daily Scripture Readings.** I am asking that families set aside time to read and discuss the Holy Scriptures together, according to our Church calendar. There are three ways you can do this:
 - Your printed, 2020 parish calendar cites the biblical passages for the day. If you do not have a calendar, please reach out to your pastor to obtain one.
 - The Eparchy of Parma’s application for daily scripture readings can be downloaded from <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.bf.appd580cf&hl=en> or by searching “Eparchy of Parma” in the GOOGLE Playstore on your mobile phone.
 - Please consider joining the newly created “Eparchy of Parma Daily Readings Group.” This private Facebook group was created for the purpose of continued interaction among the lay faithful and their pastors. Our priests and catechists are encouraged to join the group for the purpose of offering instruction and to answer questions you may have about the readings.
- **Second, The Lives of the Saints.** Please read about and discuss the “Saint of the Day” with your family. A short discussion about the saint with prayer and meditation (a synaxarion) can be found at http://www.rocor.org.au/?page_id=925, or refer to Father Robert Pita’s reference page attached to this letter.
- **Third, Pray as a family.** Please give yourselves to prayer.
 - Daily services can be found by downloading the Eastern Christian Publications application “Parma Biz” <https://ecpubs.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/APP-and-Email-Flier.pdf>.
 - Other services can be downloaded at <https://mci.archpitt.org/Publications.html>.
 - Additionally, Christ the Bridegroom Monastery has created a helpful guide for prayer during the season (cf. attachment). For their blog see <http://www.christthebridegroom.org/2020/04/a-guide-for-praying-at-home-during-this.html>



- **Fourth, a word to our Catechists:** Please continue to use whatever mechanisms and technology available to you to reach out to those entrusted to your care.
- **Finally, a word to the Faithful:** Please be receptive to the efforts of our catechists to stay connected with you and your children. Make your own and the continued faith formation of your children a priority in your home. Now, more than ever before, your children need to know God's love for them and the promise of salvation for those who remain faithful to His Word.

Blessed Pascha,

The Most Reverend Milan Lach, S.J.
Bishop of the Eparchy of Parma

Fr. Nathan Symeon
Director of Religious Education