



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH MISSION of the SACRED HEART

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Thursday, March 19, 2020

Feast of St. Joseph

Dear Parishioners of Immaculate Conception Parish and Sacred Heart Mission,

As I write this letter, it's good to be writing on the Feast of St. Joseph, Patron of the Church Universal, and patron of our Local Church. St. Joseph is a real gift to us, a model of trust and willingness to be open to God's way in our lives. These have been different weeks for all of us. Two weeks ago, we were beginning to cut down on and limit the activities and numbers gathering in the parish, and now are in the time frame where we are discouraged from gathering. I cannot celebrate the Eucharist in public, meaning with anyone present, and we cannot even schedule Reconciliation in the church. I have celebrated the Eucharist privately, but with all of you in my mind and heart. You have been right there around the Lord's Table with me.

For many of us this will be our first Easter without a Triduum to participate in, nor Easter Eucharist in the church. But it is the same loving God and Father who shares our days with us, calling us to trust in his Provident love and care. While many will miss not being able to receive Communion on Sundays, during the week, and especially at Easter, we are asked to remember the gift we have of a Spiritual Communion. This has been used often through the centuries by those who may have been in prison, ill, or for one reason or another, not been able to receive Communion. One such prayer is:

Most Holy Jesus,

I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament.

I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally,

Come spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there,
and unite myself wholly to You.

May I never be parted from You. Amen.

The Bishop will be celebrating the Eucharist each day and it will be televised, and there is also the Eucharist from the Cathedral. You can check our website for times, etc. and other opportunities. The church is open from 7:00 a.m. till 5:00 p.m. for prayer before the Blessed Sacrament and we have a table in the foyer with all the latest information and helps which can be shared. While the Blessed Sacrament has been removed, the Adoration Chapel will remain open for private prayer 24/7.

Keeping you and your families in prayer as we journey this road together,
Love,

Father Frank