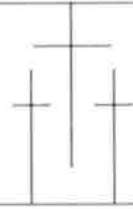


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# SAINT MARK

The Evangelist

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March 17, 2020

Dear St Mark's Community,

After serious consideration of the grave health risk involved in public gatherings and in order to curb the spread of the Coronavirus, our Bishop of Manchester has decided, effective immediately, to suspend temporarily all 'publicly' celebrated Masses. With this being said, I will still be celebrating Mass for the intentions of our parish community daily and on weekends, as I will continue to pray for the welfare of the parishioners and of all who are entrusted to my care here at St. Mark's.

We as a diocese are following President Trump's directive to avoid gatherings of 10 or more people. As Mass is meant to not be a private event for the priest alone, but rather a communal prayer of all of the Faithful, we are working as a staff on how to ensure communal participation, and how we all can remain connected to our St Mark's community through prayer, but also through our worship together at Holy Mass.

To keep everyone connected, we will:

- **Weekend Mass (Video):** Send a link to a video of St. Mark's Sunday liturgy each week. The link will be sent out via Flocknote, and will be available on our Parish Website and Facebook page. Each Mass will feature our own musicians, Artie and Amanda, as well as the Sunday Mass and Homily by Fr Mike. You will be encouraged to come together as a family to pray the Mass together, connecting with Our Lord and Our Parish Community
- **Weekly Stations of the Cross (Video):** Send a link on Fridays during Lent of Fr. Mike and Hollis Cornelissen (our Youth Minister) praying the Stations of the Cross in our Church. This will be a great way as individuals and families to come together to recall our Lord's Passion.
- **Youth Faith Formation (Video):** Send out teachings for the parents and children enrolled in our Faith Formation Programs. Each week Brandon Sargent (our Parish Evangelist) and Hollis Cornelissen (our Youth Minister) will use videos to help parents to continue their Child's preparation for Sacraments, as well as give families instruction for Faith Formation in the home during this time.

I so much look forward to being able to actually come together as ONE parish community, but I hope that these ONLINE opportunities will help continue our faith journeys in each of our homes, our own domestic churches.

As Catholics, in every Sunday Mass we celebrate the passion, death and resurrection of our Lord. The Holy Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith. In this moment, we are experiencing in a unique way the passion of our Lord as this pandemic prevents us from gathering for the Sunday Eucharist. In this very difficult time, we encourage the faithful to turn to the Church's treasury of prayer. Sunday remains a holy day, and we encourage you all to plug into the many resources we are making available to you and to pray together as a family.

Please join us in praying for all who are suffering from illness or disease of any kind, for all health care workers, and for an easing of the anxiety and tension caused by this situation. Relying on the Motherly care of Our Lady, we unite our sufferings to those of Our Lord Jesus Christ, who is our healing and our hope.

Always in Christ,

Fr Mike Zgonc  
Pastor