



All Saints | Holy Family | St. Rose of Lima
OUR CATHOLIC FAMILY OF PARISHES

March 23, 2020

To: Parishioners of All Saints, Holy Family and St. Rose of Lima Parishes
Fr: Fr. Keiter
Re: Sunday Giving

Dear Parishioners:

I am praying daily that all of you are hanging in there and staying healthy as we go through these very tough times as a Church, a community, a state and a nation. I am always brought to peace by the words from Matthew's Gospel 11:28-30, *"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened,* and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."* We need to persevere in our prayer during this time and go to Jesus. Let us find rest in this turmoil by placing our labor and burdens with Him.

I have never preached or talked about money during a Mass in nearly 19 years of Priesthood. I am a firm believer that if we "feed our people" through helping them Encounter Jesus and grow in their Faith through equipping them as beloved disciples then all the financial pieces of our work as a Church will fall into place. However, I am writing this letter because we have now entered into a time in the life of the Church that we have not experienced before.

Due to the Coronavirus Crisis, we cannot gather as a Family of Faith to celebrate the Holy Mass which is sad and hard in its own significant way as a People who believe the Eucharist is the source and summit of our life. Not being able to celebrate the Holy Mass publicly during this crisis also is a serious financial issue for our Parishes. Sunday giving is our primary source of income on a weekly basis.

We are being very prudent with our spending, but we still have necessary expenses each week and month. I am very grateful to Archbishop Lucas for suspending our March AAF payment (**this is a calculated amount every Parish pays monthly for the general operations of the Archdiocesan Offices**). This was a specific way the Archbishop definitely helped out, but we still need to address our Parishes income during this time.

I am asking all our Parishioners to please continue their Sunday giving during this time. I know that some of you may not be able to do so if your job has been affected by this crisis. I would ask those of you who maybe have the ability to give a little more during this time to prayerfully consider doing so.

You can mail your weekly offering to your respective Parish Office. If you are already giving electronically but would consider increasing your giving during this difficult time, you can do so through your Faith Direct Account. If you would like to sign up for giving electronically you can do so very easily on our new website for our Parishes at www.ourcatholicfamily.org Simply click on the **Church Giving ribbon** in the upper right corner of the web page.

Thank you for all your support and prayers during this time. Thank you also for your prayerful consideration of financially supporting our parishes during this critical time. Let us continue to pray for each other as we live through this crisis knowing that Jesus will make our burden light.

God Bless You,

Fr. Keiter

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**Important Information and Announcements
for
All Saints, Holy Family and St. Rose Parishes
Concerning the Coronavirus Situation
As of March 18, 2020**

Dear Parishioners:

In continuing to keep you updated with the most current information and announcements we are again providing this insert in our bulletins this weekend but we will also be providing this electronically to as many as possible prior to this weekend. As we learn more we will continue to update you as best we can.

On Monday, March 16th we received the following:

The CDC and Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts are recommending the cancellation of public assemblies with 10 or more people. **Effective immediately, all public Masses and communal celebrations of the Sacraments or other liturgies are indefinitely suspended.**

I would like to share with you some specifics that we have received from Fr. Hastings who is our Vicar of Clergy as guidance in these very strange times for all of us.

Why suspend public Masses and not just limit them to ten people?

We are trying to collaborate with both the letter and spirit of the restrictions that are in place. The purpose of this time of distancing is to stop the spread of a legitimately life-threatening illness. While celebrating funerals and already scheduled weddings within the new limitations is reasonable, other celebrations are to be set aside temporarily. Priests should still be offering the Mass privately, and this is still a source of grace for the Church. Home Masses, while not canonically or legally prohibited, are against the spirit of trying to stop the spread of this virus plus we can't celebrate Mass in everyone's home so it could also cause division and thus these are also not advised.

How long will this last?

We are uncertain. Hopefully, it will be a matter of weeks and not longer.

Can our Churches be open during this time?

Our churches should remain open as usual for people to stop in and pray.

What about the need for Funerals during this time?

These are limited to ten, including the priest. There are a couple of options. A priest could have ten total persons present and live stream the funeral Mass for others. Another option could be that the burial be celebrated now, and a Mass of Christian Burial in the absence of the body or a memorial Mass could be celebrated later. At outdoor burials, we should keep in mind appropriate distancing.

Can we celebrate the Sacrament of Confession?

These should take place, but they should be scheduled in such a way that groups do not congregate.

Can we celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism?

These can take place, but they should be limited to no more than ten people in the church.

Can Priests visit the sick?

These can take place, as usual. Please keep in mind we should still practice the appropriate distancing except of course for celebrating Holy Anointing if needed. Hospitals and Nursing Homes have protocols that Priests will need to follow as well.

What about Deacons, EMHCs and Home Communion Services or Visiting the Homebound?

Deacons and EMHCs are not permitted in this time to hold Communion Services, for others or for their own families. Visiting the homebound should also be suspended, unless in the case of illness, since the purpose of this time is to stop the spread of the coronavirus. Where possible, it is strongly encouraged that the homebound receive phone calls to reach out to them.

The strong desire to receive the Blessed Sacrament is a beautiful thing. However, this suspension will not be forever. Many of the world's Catholics receive the Eucharist only a handful of times in a year. In order to do our part to stop the spread of the coronavirus, we should encourage parishioners to break open the Scriptures, to pray as families, and to make spiritual communions.

What about Weddings that are scheduled during this time?

Weddings that have been scheduled during this time in which, all public Masses and communal celebrations of the Sacraments or other liturgies are indefinitely suspended, can still be celebrated however, they are limited to ten people, including the priest.

Again, I wanted to share some of these questions that you and even us as Priests are asking.

I would like to share with you several items that Fr. An Duy and I as well as others have been working on to continue to help communicate and strengthen us as a Church – The Body of Christ during this time.

- Our new website representing all our Parishes **will go live this Friday, March 20th**. Please check it out. We will keep the most current information concerning this situation on our website as a “one-stop shop”. Please note that the St. Rose website is still up and running and current.

www.ourcatholicfamily.org

- Fr. An Duy and I are offering Masses privately each day. However, I am live-streaming a Daily Mass on Facebook live. Monday thru Friday at 11:30 AM. Saturday vigil at 5:00 PM and Sunday morning at 9:30 AM. These are recorded and saved on Facebook as well.
- As mentioned in the prior Q&A section, we can hear confessions. We will keep our special Lent schedule – The Light Is On – each Thursday evening as follows:
 - March 19th @ St. Rose from 7-9 PM
 - March 26th @ Sacred Heart from 7-9 PM
 - April 2nd @ St. John's from 7-9 PM

Additionally, we will have Confessions on Sunday, April 5th from 1-3 PM at St. Rose and St. Boniface Churches. Then from 4-6 PM at Ss. Peter and Paul and Immaculate Conception Churches.

****Please note – we ask that we have no more than 10 people in Church at a time and that you practice the safe distancing by using those pews that are not taped off and no more than 1 person in an open pew. Thank You.****

- We have also been getting another means of communication set up called Flocknote. This will allow us to communicate with many of you via text messaging and emails. This is why updating your contact information is so important. Especially emails and cell phone numbers. This too will go live by Friday, March 20th if not sooner. Our new website and Flocknote will allow us to communicate more effectively and often as well as allow us to offer several other resources to help foster our prayer and walk of Faith during this time.
- We are continuing to publish our weekly bulletin. They will be available in the normal locations of all our Churches for pickup by Saturday morning during this time. However, it will also be available on our websites and we will be emailing it out as well. **We will be mailing a hard copy to all our Parishioners who are age 70 and older.**
- **Our Parish Offices are closed to “foot-traffic” at this time.** However, our secretaries are there to take phone calls, answer emails and try to keep some sense of normalcy during this time.

We will continue to keep you updated as we go through this time together. Most importantly, let us continue to pray for a speedy end to this situation through the intercession of St. Joseph. Thank You and know of mine and Fr. An Duy's prayers for all of you.

Fr. Keiter