

*St. Francis de Sales  
Catholic Church*

March 18, 2020

**Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston**

My dear parishioners,

In the midst of these difficult times and uncertain environment in our nation and in the world, I am deeply touched and inspired by your continuing demonstration of eagerness, steadfastness and zeal in living out our Catholic faith. I and the parish staff want to assure you that St. Francis de Sales is fully committed in various ways to all of you and your families.

We have taken the necessary steps to continue to work on your behalf to maintain an environment that allows for spiritual communion with our Lord Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. Hence, our church will be open daily from 9:00 am through 5:00 pm for private prayer and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament while keeping in mind the recommendations of the CDC and the instructions of our Ordinary, Daniel Cardinal DiNardo.

With respect to the parish staff, the parish office will remain open daily during the work week from 9:00 am through 5:00 pm, closed only during the lunch hour of 12 noon -1:00 pm. Most of the staff will be working from home while a few may be rotating in and out of the parish office at different times during the course of the work day/week. I will always be accessible to you.

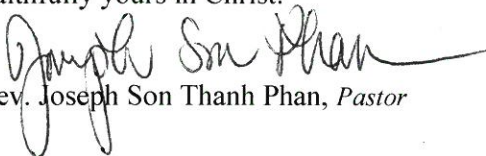
Because of the uncertainty with the Conoravirus, I have to make a difficult decision to cancel our annual Bazaar which planned for May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020. This fundraising effort is so important to the financial well-being of our parish that I would like to propose what the Bazaar Committee has suggested of an “unbazaar bazaar.” We ask that you still donate for underwriting as you normally would. If 400 families can donate \$250, we can still raise \$100,000 without all the expense we usually have. We are grateful for those that have the means to donate more than \$250, but we also know that any sacrifice is precious so we express our profound appreciation for donations of any amount.

I am aware and specifically sensitive to the fact that the impact of COVID-19 cuts across the spectrum of our lives, from personal health and safety to our local and national economy. This fuels constant concern about the ability of wage-earners and economic providers for their families, to continue to work and earn a living. Businesses and employers have to continue to find ways to operate.

Our parish and its operations also have to continue and our staff, who depend on their wages to sustain their families, are very much in the same boat. To this end, I wish to appeal for your continued financial support through your weekly and/or monthly contributions to maintain the operating health of our parish and to sustain the employment of its staff. You may drop off your contribution envelopes each week during parish office hours or mail these to us. Those who contribute via online giving should continue to do so. Otherwise, there is a donation box at the entrance to the church for you to drop off your contributions.

We have always operated in a very lean manner as you can see from our weekly parish bulletin reports of your contributions as well as our bi-annual report to the parish. This is a time for us to pray for each other and to support each other, in faith. Together, we will overcome this crisis trusting in God who will protect and deliver His people from harm.

Faithfully yours in Christ.

  
Rev. Joseph Son Thanh Phan, *Pastor*