

*St. Joseph on the Brazos Catholic Church
219 County Road 762
Brazoria, Texas 77422
979-798-2288*

March 24, 2020

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

May the God of peace be with all of you. Please know that during this time of pandemic, you are all in my thoughts and prayers.

We are going through an uneasy and unfamiliar period together. I encourage each of you to follow the guidelines as shown by the National Task Force on the Coronavirus and pray daily for normalcy in the midst of the current health crisis.

I am sad to inform you that we lost two parishioners this week – Sharon Landry and William Steigerwald. Sharon fought a long battle with COPD and she went to be with the Lord on March 23rd. A graveside service will be held on Wednesday, March 25th and only the immediate family will attend. William Steigerwald, father of Steve Steigerwald, met Jesus on the same day, March 23rd. Mr. Steigerwald will be put to rest in Harlingen, Texas this weekend.

Also, I am writing you to keep you up to date on our church and the unfamiliar and uneasy times we are going through. As all of you know, the Cardinal has suspended weekday and weekend Masses. He has also dispensed the obligation to attend Mass until further notice. Having no Masses either on weekdays or weekends has virtually eliminated our offerings that enable us to operate and pay our bills. We have monthly obligations for our utilities, maintenance, Property and Liability Insurance and Workman's Compensation.

As most of you know, our financial situation at the church was continuing to improve with austere budgeting of our monies. We were planning on paying off the remaining balance on the \$400,000 loan for the renovation of the large hall with the bazaar proceeds. Our current balance is only \$20,000. We continue to have debits that must be paid but we have no regular income during this time. We are planning to request a loan for \$100,000 from the Archdiocese to enable us to continue to operate during these trying times. A few parishioners have called and are continuing their weekly donations through the mail. I ask if each of you can continue your weekly offerings either by mail or through the Dow Credit Union's online banking. It will enable us to continue to function as St. Joseph on the Brazos and keep our heads above the waters. I do not like to talk about money, but we are in a situation now that needs everyone's attention. I hope that you can see your way through to help us with these needs.

I have written this letter to make you aware of the current status of our parish. I ask for your prayers that we will continue to be generous to God and will grow in our capabilities to help each other. May God bless each one of you and be assured that you are in my prayers daily.

In Christ,

Rev. 

Rev. Tin Pham, Pastor