Dear Parishioners of St. Paul:

May the Peace of Christ be with you!

As we approach the first Sunday without any public Masses, I wanted to reach out to all of you and once again say that all of you are being remembered in prayer at the private Masses that Frs. Michael, Raymond and I continue to offer.

The private Sunday Mass that Fr. Michael and I will offer on Sunday at St. Paul will broadcast online live at 8 a.m. Once the recording time for that Mass is finished, it can be watched at any other time during the day. You can access that broadcast by going to the home page of the parish website, www.stpaulkensington.org, and clicking on the Live Stream button and then clicking again on the arrow on the picture of the church.

The private daily Mass is broadcast online as well; it can be viewed live at 7 a.m. (Monday through Friday) and can also be viewed any time later in the day after the live broadcast has finished.

You can read this week’s bulletin online as well. Scroll down on the home page until you get to News and Events. In my column I speak about making a Spiritual Communion in the absence of being able to receive Jesus Himself in the Eucharist. Included in the bulletin is a prayer composed by St. Alphonse Liguori that we are praying before each Mass that is being broadcast. There are also a limited number of hard copies of the bulletin at St. Paul Church.

Mercy Mondays (7 to 8 pm) with Adoration and our regular confession times on Saturday will continue.

We recorded the Stations of the Cross on Friday outdoors on the Parish Green. The video can be viewed at any time by going to the home page of the website.

Also on Friday, March 20, the FoodShare distribution took place with revised protocols for both the volunteers and those receiving food. All went well as food was distributed to 65 people, which is a 40-50% decrease. Maintaining the food supply will be a challenge going forward as our food reserves are down of course. This is especially challenging given the difficulty in grocery shopping itself and the reduced supplies in stores. If you do have food to drop off it can be done at any of the church entrances as usual, but the easiest for you and the volunteers would be the elevator entrance. The church is open M-F from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., on Saturday until 4, and Sunday until 3 p.m.

While we are all hunkered down on this Laetare Sunday, the halfway point of Lent, a word that means rejoice, we might not sense a feeling of rejoicing. But let us not forget that, “The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.” As we pray for those stricken with the virus, those who have died, and those who are working to provide for our well being, let us turn to the Lord and always be a people of hope. To remind us of the hope that we celebrated in the birthday of our Savior three months ago, the Lights on the Green are back on!

Peace and All Good,

Fr. Joe