



February 19, 2021

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Peace of Christ! I hope and pray that you are doing well.

Well, this week in Texas has proven to be quite exceptional. We had power outages, no water, and temps in the teens. We're doing well here now that the power and water are back, thanks be to God and it reminds me of how I shouldn't take anything for granted and to be grateful. The temps are actually going to be in the 40's and 50's in the next couple days. Please pray for the folks here who struggle with the effects of the winter storm.

I have a conference call with Bishop Vetter and the clinical director here at Shalom Center, today. Friday, February 19. I will be home soon and my first weekend of Masses will be during the first weekend of March, so I will have Mass on Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m., right after I arrive home and will celebrate the First Saturday Mass at 10 a.m., March 6<sup>th</sup>. The full weekend Mass schedule will then resume later Saturday at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, Mass will be at 8 a.m. (Latin Mass) and 10 a.m. Novus Ordo. I am overjoyed to be coming home soon.

Fr. Stan has a key to my rectory and he may be in my office or other rooms upstairs, so there may be lights on in the next couple of weekends. Just wanted to let you know in case you are walking or driving by and notice.

As part of my aftercare program, I am to gradually resume ministry and will be adjusting my schedule for my health. I'll fill you in on the details in the weeks to come, but I'm looking forward to serving the Lord by serving you robustly into the future.

You are all in my prayers every day and at Mass. Please keep me in yours as I'm very excited to be returning home to you.

I pray that you had a blessed beginning of Lent. Many thanks to Colleen, Deacon Doug, the staff at St. Richard, and those who have been helping with Communion Services during the week, which will continue. I'm most grateful to Fr. Stan for doing great and holy work before my return.

With gratitude and love in Christ,

Fr. R