

Parishioners of St. Joseph's,

I have said before that we don't use this way of communicating with you all that often but things are changing and I think we are going to have to do this a little more often. I don't want to flood your email box so I won't make it too often. Thanks for your patience and cooperation.

You all know that I was a Salesian of Don Bosco for a part of my life. In that time I often heard the words of St. John Bosco: "We seek to form the young as good Christians and good Citizens. Citizens for the kingdom here on earth and for the Kingdom of Heaven." While those words come from the 1800's I think they are very true today as well. In being formed as Catholics we are formed to live in accord with the Gospel and the teachings of Jesus Christ. We live those teachings here through our actions and attitudes here on earth. Bottom line...we care for each other in real and tangible ways. It is not enough for us to **say** that we love Jesus... we must make it real so that others can **know it and feel it**.

I say this because I know that many of us, myself included, are getting jittery and anxious with the entire COVID-19 situation. We look forward to the time when things will "get back to normal". I have no idea when that will be. But I do know that we each need to care for ourselves and for each other. Don't let a week go by that you don't reach out to a fellow parishioner and just ask how they are doing...see if they need help with something ... promise to pray for them ... then actually do say some prayers for them. Offer one decade of the Rosary each day for the good of your family. Offer another for the good of the parish. We need to strengthen each other even when we cannot come together as families and friends.

A part of strengthening each other is the Eucharist. Our Bishop, together with the Bishops of all 12 dioceses of California, have temporarily stopped the public celebration of daily and Sunday mass. We will continue to livestream and post Mass each day. You can find it on our FaceBook page "St. Joseph Spreckels" or you can also click on the video on our webpage at www.stjchurch.org. It is streamed live Monday through Friday at 9AM. The weekend Mass is streamed live at 5PM on Saturday. For those who cannot join us for the live video then you can always click on the recorded video at any time.

Bishop Danny Garcia has asked all Pastors to assure the people that he has relaxed the requirement to attend Mass on the weekend. This is temporary and will remain in

place until he is assured that it is safe for us all to gather in the real life Community again. I will be sure to keep you posted on this.

In addition, please be aware that:

- I will continue to be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) in the church courtyard on Saturday afternoon from 4pm to 4:45pm.
- Funerals can continue but with the current restrictions on not more than 20 people present in the church or at the graveside.
- For any other issue please feel free to call the office. Although the offices are not open to the public at this time, we are still working and available to you by phone or email.

You are all in my personal prayers and my daily celebration of the Eucharist. Please pray for me and for our parish Community. We are all in this together.

Peace,
Fr. Roy
Pastor