



St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Community

A Message from the Pastor on COVID-19

March 14, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

We are living in extraordinary times and an unpredictable future. As people of faith we live in hope and during our Lenten journey we embrace the cross of Christ. However, we must also live in the reality presented before us using common sense, following mandated directives and reaching out to the most vulnerable. We are the presence of Christ and we will do whatever we are able to do to make His presence known in these challenging times.

According to the news this morning the federal authorities are predicting at the very least that we may be looking for us to be impacted in the United States for approximately 8-9 weeks. This will make life very difficult and burdensome, especially for our infirmed, elderly and young. We have witnessed extraordinary events in the aisles of our stores and public venues as each hour we hear of further closures, postponements and cancellations.

The Church will also be affected in how it is able to accomplish its mission daily. You have already received the notice from our Archbishop and some local decisions based on our circumstances (*Parish E-Communication sent March 13, 2020. View the notice on the Parish Website at <http://stluketemplecity.org/covid-19-notice>*). All things are fluid and we will do our best to keep you informed of changes through e-mail communications and posting on the website in a timely manner. We ask for your understanding and patience as we are constantly being informed of new mandates and directives from various leadership.

Most importantly, as a community of faith that will be living a little more disconnected and isolated in these weeks ahead, I ask you to live a daily life of deeper prayer and connection with Christ. Also, you should keep an eye out for any parishioner or neighbor that is alone and may need a helping hand. You are the face of the Church and Christ in the streets of our city. If we can help alleviate any fear as a parish in the life of another or assist in obtaining any needed help, we should attempt to do just that. We should take all precautions necessary when dealing with those who are health compromised or elderly that our presence not cause any unnecessary concern or stress. Most, if not all, healthcare facilities have banned visits (even from us priests) during this pandemic so we will not be able to make sick calls to those facilities but will keep all those in need in our daily prayers at Mass.

Finally, while we will be seeing more restrictions being leveled from authorities on travel, gatherings, and living freely, we must always approach with an attitude of gratitude for God's blessings. There will be lessons learned from this pandemic and perhaps spiritual transformations taking place in our journey. As with most things, the decision to live smartly and practicing good hygiene and listening to the directives of leadership may help to mitigate the length and severity of this crisis. *Let us keep each other in prayer as our journey continues...*

In Christ's Love,

Fr. Mark