



St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Community

A Message from the Pastor on COVID-19

March 16, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

God is good all the time. All the time God is good. As I sit here awaiting further direction from our Archbishop, I have been watching the various civic authorities continuing their call to each of us to remain calm and be gracious to one another. This is truly an emergency and must be handled as such by any intelligent person of faith. As a person of faith, I believe this pandemic trial is inviting and encouraging us into a different form of Lenten desert.

Perhaps we would have never imagined last Ash Wednesday that we would be sacrificing our attendance at the public celebration of the Eucharist. Yet, even in this stark reality, we can allow God to be with us in a new and dramatic way as we take time to be with family, retreat into our inner room, and allow God to speak to us as he has throughout all time. I believe beautiful spiritual transformation can take place if we approach this sacrifice (for the common good) and in respecting the health of the most vulnerable if our heart and spirit opens itself to the God of all possibility.

The latest recommendations are that many things should be closed, no gathering of more than ten people, social distancing, etc. All these things will help us even in the spiritual realm (as we live this out in the physical world) to re-prioritize and sort through those things that really don't matter in life and those that do. While we may all be asked to self-isolate for a couple of weeks to help the professionals get a handle on the advance of the Coronavirus, we can take advantage of a new Lenten journey in silence and in deepened prayer for our neighbor and family.

I will continue to update you as I am able to pass on any news. As I have already informed you, in past days, all gatherings at the parish **(now including Mass, beginning Tuesday, March 17, 2020) are cancelled until further notice.** I would hope that parish groups would NOT gather in homes to possibly carry illness into other's lives and perhaps compromising the life of another. I believe this to be a moral obligation on our part as a people of faith. I would ask that you reach out to those who do not have e-mail or any way of communicating so that you can be the source of update for them.

Let us hold each other in prayer but especially the most vulnerable among us.

Blessings upon each of you as we continue our journey in faith, hope and love!

Please visit our Parish Website for continued information: <http://stluketemplecity.org/covid-19-notice>.

In Christ's Love,

Fr. Mark