



## St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Community

### A Message from the Pastor

*March 23, 2020*



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Dear Parishioners,

Well, folks, we experienced our first full week of not gathering in a building and yet we are still Church! Perhaps God is showing us a new way? Certainly, we must be opened to “seeing” things anew in this time of blindness. My sister, Janise, who lives in Texas read my Sunday reflection and offered up this poem of hers:

#### **The Potter**

*A man sits down and tosses clay  
upon the potter's wheel  
With eyes made blind, he cannot see,  
but heart and hands can feel.  
The wheel begins so slow at first,  
then with increased speed;  
the fingers of the man dig in  
his mind again is freed.  
Each one of us, He guides like clay,  
The Earth His spinning wheel.  
Close your eyes, open your heart  
to what is The Father's Will.*

As a simple shepherd, I pray you are opening your heart and “closing your will” so that the Potter can truly form a work of art in you. Today’s Gospel speaks of those around Jesus seeking a “sign.” Hmm. What would that be for you today? A cure, a good day on the stock market, an early release from your imprisonment, a roof over your head, etc. What sign does this age, or YOU seek? Is it really something that should become reality? Who knows?

I see report after report of people across the country not taking this virus seriously and it angers me. Those who place themselves before the health of others or above the law. It reminds me of the ignorance and pride of those seeking a sign in the presence of Christ in the Gospel scene.

And, yet, He gave it. It is the sign of His love, His all-encompassing mercy and peace. He invites us to embrace it and to promulgate it. Of all the infighting, stupidity and self-absorption that we witness among ourselves in His Church, the politics of our country, even among families or groups. THIS is the sign. Do we work for Him or

ourselves? Yes, the Pastor is being frank and honest....and inviting his flock to self-reflect about their mission and journey, as he has been doing himself. We seek a sign....or do we really want one?

My fellow journeyers, we are in it together or we are not. This is going to make us or break us. You are the source of disease or the cure. What do we choose and choose we must! St. Luke was a physician. Will you respond to his cure and move beyond what you feel to what you are called to live? Abandonment for sure...Freedom to embrace. Let the Potter's hands break the hardened clay and mold you into a new creation.

On a note of gratitude as someone pointed out to me in an e-mail: I didn't have to be seen wearing the "pink" or rose vestment on Sunday. Thank God for small things.

Well, enough, it's raining, and the dogs are snoring. Or is that my 92-year-old mother or thirty some associate. It doesn't matter...because we are at home and together and we hope the same for you. Our love and prayers this next week of reflecting of God changing our lives during our own blindness.

*Thank you for your e-mails of encouragement and support. We will get through this with the hand of God. Know of your priests' daily prayers for you as we journey together.*

**Please visit our Parish Website for continued COVID-19 information related to parish activities and previous e-communications: <http://stluketemplecity.org/covid-19-notice>.**

Blessings,

Fr. Mark