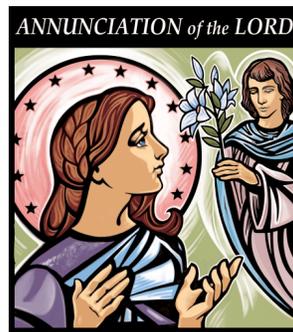




St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Community

A Message from the Pastor

March 25, 2020



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Dear Parishioners,

Today is the Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord celebrating our Blessed Mother Mary's "yes" to the will of God after hearing the message from Archangel Gabriel. Her openness to the seed of God's Word to become flesh in the person of Jesus continues today in our openness in receiving God's Word into our lives of faith.

We might imagine the fear and wonderment she must have felt at first not knowing; but, giving into trust of God. We, too, can be daunted by the awesomeness of our call in our own journey to let go and let God. Mary is with us, as is Jesus, in this trial and hardship being apart and isolated from our daily routine and interaction.

I want to thank each of you who have shared your stories with me these days, reflecting upon our shared path. I appreciate those who are e-mailing me/us and keeping us in your prayers as you are in ours. I pray for those whom I have been in touch with, especially those who are working in the healthcare and first responder category who are out there in the field doing your job in an extraordinary way. I had to chuckle when I heard that an altar server wanted to come and serve mass this weekend. Thank you!

Almost every day I am participating in webinars with other pastors across the diocese and the Archbishop as we discuss our concerns regarding health issues, financial issues, staffing, etc. We are in uncharted territory. I am grateful for my staff for continuing to serve their constituents in new and wonderful ways. And, I am grateful for Fr. Tommy for phoning some of you who are most vulnerable these days.

While more directives are coming down in the coming days and the complete closure of parish offices to the public and restrictions on what we can do ministerially, we place our hope in Christ who is our light and peace. We must be patient and allow Christ to help carry this Lenten Cross. We are exploring broadcasting our Holy Week services through the Internet, if we are able, so that we can join in prayer together even from afar.

Thank you for your e-mails of encouragement and support. We will get through this with the help of God's grace. Know of your priests' daily prayers for you as we journey together, but apart.

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