



## St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Community

### A Message from the Pastor

March 26, 2020



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Dear Parishioners,

These days are weighing upon us. The news of the day is growing direr. As of this writing the numbers are worsening in those who are ill, our pocketbooks, worldwide deaths, the loss of employment, and daily warnings. We have not even neared the predicted “hit” that we have seen in New York, Spain, Italy and Iran. The USA has now surpassed that of China. Will it end? When? We do not know. All we know at this point is that **WE** must do what **WE** must do to keep safe and protect others. We cannot risk being exposed or exposing others, especially those of us who care for elders, infirm, or compromised. It is difficult and yet we must do it...and, all our civic leaders are telling us the same: “Safer at home.” Perhaps “Safer at home” is our Cross of this Lent.

In our Gospel today it would seem that there is a certain “hiddenness” to the presence of Jesus. He desires to move about without his face being seen or noticed. He likes to work unnoticed or acclaimed whether by those who seek to kill him or those who wish to be near him. He warns those he heals or touches not to tell anyone or share this news. Jesus moved about not openly but incognito. I like this Jesus and I identify with this Jesus because I am a very private person and I find it hard to be in public or identified or noticed for something I did or said. It’s not about me or my presence.

I struggle in my spirituality, as I believe we all do. I can share my thoughts but only when I feel it’s necessary. My journey with God is not a communal experience; it is for me as it was for each individual that Jesus encountered, healed and lifted. It is a solitary moment and a life journey that may be glimpsed by those outside the individual’s journey.

My friends, as we struggle these days as a community apart it is also a call for you to find that Jesus in disguise in your own journey who moves among you to be close to you without being seen. His presence felt in those moments of doubt and fear without seeking to be named. His love always there and hopefully felt and acknowledged by you in the peaceful slipping into a night’s sleep. May the same God we worship in community and as the Body of Christ, the Church, be known by you in your solitary journey in this time – trusting in the disguised Jesus moving among us in all His goodness. Be well, know Peace, and contemplate your unseen God who **KNOWS** you!

*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 of peace,

Fr. Mark