



St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Community

A Message from the Pastor

April 1, 2020



Dear Parishioners,

It's April Fools Day but you are not going to get a joke from me today. I'm listening to the latest updates from Washington, D.C., Sacramento and Los Angeles and the projections from the mortality models in play. The fatality rate for the USA is at best 100,000 to 250,000 persons. This is the prediction from the experts if we all do what we are being asked to do: stay home, do not gather, do not go from home to home, etc. If we do not listen, then the death rate will be into the millions. This is sobering and spiritually jarring. I can only pray that this strengthens us as a people as we spend this prolonged time in prayer.

The gospel for today speaks of us *remaining in the word...and the truth will set you free*. My only hope for us these days is to remain in the Word which is Truth and is Christ. May our minds be set free from the imprisonment we are experiencing, and our spirits embrace the Word made flesh. We are living our Good Friday experience each day while hoping for an Easter experience to come soon. We have at least 30 more days of this confinement so we must grasp on to the promise ahead. We need to stay strong.

On another note, the simple truth is that I need to ask you to remain strong in your financial support for the parish during this crisis. We have lost 75% of our weekly income and without that income we will not be able to provide compensation for our staff, pay our bills, and maintain our buildings. All our parishes in the Archdiocese are taking direction from the Chancery and keeping staff on payroll for the time being. This will not be able to happen for long. So, I simply ask you to continue your sacrificial generosity in these difficult times so that St. Luke can survive and remain viable.

Please consider mailing your contributions into the Pastoral Office or leave in the office mailbox. You can also make your donation through our [parish online giving program](#) (Vanco). You can call Vanco at 1-800-675-7430 Monday-Friday between 6:00 am and 4:00 pm to make your contribution as well (Our parish client ID is ES11182). God bless you.

More directives for every parish in the Archdiocese: Palms can be blessed but cannot be distributed until later. Holy Oils will be blessed but will not be distributed to parishes until later. Archbishop has dispensed everyone from mass obligation through April.

I am planning on videotaping/streaming our Holy Week services and will inform you how and when that will take place. I did have an offer from a friend who would like to install a camera in the church for future use, especially for our regular homebound parishioners. This gives me some hope in these days when one needs to search for hope. So, stay tuned and thank you again for our journey together.

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>.

Prayers and blessings from cyberspace,

Fr. Mark



St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Community

Important – Please Read!
SCAM ALERT!

Please do not respond to any e-mails (or texts) from Fr. Mark that ask for money or a response. Fr. Mark always communicates electronically with his parish e-mail address and would never request money through e-mails such as this. If you do receive such a request, always call the Pastoral Office at (626) 291-5900 to confirm.

