



ST. PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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April 24, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

I pray that everything is well for you and your family with the grace of God and the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

I am sending this letter to every parishioner to extend the blessing of God to your home. We are in the difficult times amidst the spread of COVID19. Some have contracted the disease and some even died of it. Life is very fragile as we know. We follow the directives of the State, the county and the diocese concerning the way we protect ourselves from this virus. It is safe to stay home. We seem to be powerless doing this. But we are a people of faith and hope in God. With that nothing can put us down as the new chosen people of God. As Jesus had promised Peter that "upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it." (Mt 16, 18) For as the Psalmist says, "God is our refuge and our strength, an ever-present help in distress." (Ps 46, 2) We will eventually overcome it. "Trust in the LORD forever! For the LORD is an eternal Rock." (Is 26, 4)

In this Easter season, we are again reminded how one man must suffer and die for us that we may have life. Jesus carried our sufferings and sins on the cross that we may have hope, new life and a new understanding of suffering and sickness. St. Paul reminds us, "I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us." (Rom 8, 18) The cross is always a part of our Christian life. We do not turn our backs to the cross. We face the cross, because we can see beyond it are life, victory and good things that it symbolizes for our faith and redemption. We are all united in the cross of Christ.


As St. Paul says that "we are the body of Christ." (1 Cor 12, 27) If one part suffers, the whole body suffers. So, we are not alone. We have each other. We can see people around us now supporting each other, be it by words of encouragement and of inspirational content, by sharing what we have to one another especially those in need, by praying for one another, by sympathizing with one another and by supporting each other to whatever we can share. We do this because we trust each other more ever now than before. These are some of the good things that came out of this pandemic. This the light at the end of the tunnel and the rainbow after the storm.

With this I am asking your support for St. Paul Church. She is our church. She needs our prayers. She needs our support, too, in anything we can extend. We are here for each other. Rest

assured that with your help, our church is here for you and will still be here after this pandemic. You may mail your weekly contribution or even drop it by the office or by the white mailbox in front of the office. You can do it electronically, too, through the Catholic Foundation of our Diocese. It is a free service given by our diocese to help parishes and it is safe and secured. This is the link: <https://www.scd.org/catholic-foundation>. From there, you just go to “Support Your Parish” and choose St. Paul – Sacramento. The diocese will send to us 100% of your contribution. We appreciate your support and generosity.

Rest assured of my prayers for all of you and my livestream masses are offered for you. May God continue to bless you and your family. May the Blessed Virgin Mary protect us with her intercession.

Sincerely,


REV. JOYLE MARTINEZ
Pastor