

Church of St. John the Evangelist

5751 LOCUST AVENUE
CARMICHAEL, CALIFORNIA 95608
(916) 483-8454

March 18, 2020

Dear St. John the Evangelist Parishioner,

Much uncertainty has come during these challenging times as the world is overwhelmed with the COVID-19 virus. As your Pastor, I share the concerns of the community and ask that we all work to cooperate with the suggestions of the health officials and the Bishop to minimize the impact of the virus. Those recommendations and requirements - as necessary as they are - will place a great deal of burden on many in our community. In addition to the requests from the health officials, the Bishop issued a temporary suspension of all masses during this COVID outbreak for the good of all the faithful. Please spend the time at home when you are usually at mass in an act of mercy and penance contemplating that which your soul thirsts in full anticipation of our return to Christ's altar.

As a community centered in Christ, we are more than just a group of people who gather together, but a family of brothers and sisters of our Lord connected through the mystical body of Jesus Christ. It is not as an obligation that I offer this but as a desire to serve another in my family. If you are in need of getting to the grocery store or pharmacy or just talking, please contact us. My hope is that if you need help that I can connect you with another parishioner who would be able to frequently reach out to you or you reach out to them. If there are services needed beyond what the community can offer, we will try to help connect you with those resources. Also, if you are able to help please let us know. Or, if you know of someone in your community and you can help them, please do.

I do advise that during these times there are some who try to take advantage of others. Never would I ask for a fee for this service or any other gift. As you may have heard, people received emails and text messages in my name asking for money or gift cards. At no time would I ever ask for money or would anyone associated with Saint John the Evangelist ask for money through text, emails or on the phone.

Since we are unable to have a weekly collection at mass, I would greatly appreciate, for those who can, to please mail your contribution directly to the parish office. Your ongoing support is necessary for this outreach and the ongoing support of the parish.

The Parish will be communicating through its website (www.sjecarmichael.org), Facebook (St. John the Evangelist Church Carmichael), My Parish app and through email using Flocknotes. If we have your phone number, someone from the Parish will be reaching out to you. Also, you may call the parish office at (916) 483-8454 or Deacon Keith Johnson at (916) 390-5458.

In times of suffering, thinking of our Blessed Mother at the foot of the cross, one can wonder if she knew of the glory of the resurrection that would follow such suffering. We might ponder if she too was surprised to see the Risen Lord. How might Christ manifest his glory through this time of trial?

With loving concern

Rev. Father Bernardin Mugabo