

Dear Parishioners and friends of Saint Joseph Parish:

I hope all are coping, as best as possible, as we struggle with the anxiety, uncertainty and distress brought on by the Pandemic. These times demand a great deal of patience, prayer, prudence and perseverance. Many are called out as essential workers during this time. May we be grateful for their great sacrifice and courage as they are put at greater risk as to continue to serve in vital ways, for the benefit of all of us who require their hard work and dedication.

I am very grateful for the response of so many parishioners. Our volunteer maintenance workers and groundskeepers continue to serve very diligently, as they always do, to assure that the church property is well cared for. We are also blessed by so many who continue to make their weekly contributions to the church. That is certainly a very generous and essential offering so that we continue to meet parish operating expenses.

During this time of unprecedented crisis, we have the opportunity to pray more intensely for the wisdom of God to guide those leaders who can help to resolve this Pandemic. Leadership that is competent and compassionate is essential, keeping us all well informed and encouraging us to promote our safety and the safety and well being of others.

I read a wonderful reflection in the other day in a prayer book called **Give Us This Day**. I want to share some of the wisdom and insight that the writer offers.

“Over and over, we hear that God is calling us, which is a comfort that comes with sacrifice. Following God’s call does not guarantee a life free of heartache a life filled with riches or a life marked by ease. What it does guarantee is that no matter where that call takes us, we will not have to weather any of it alone. The Lord will shepherd us, seeking us out when we stray, pulling us back when we want to rush ahead, soothing our hearts and souls with a voice that is as Familiar as our own breath – if we just take the time to stop moving and doing and achieving and just listen for the One who has the answers to all the questions we’re asking.”

May the Lord bless us and His entire human family throughout the world, and keep us all safe and well. Peace be with you!

Fr. Ed Stafford