



12521 Inwood Road
Dallas, TX 75244
stritaparish.net

16 March 2020

Dear St. Rita Community,

I write again to update you on what's happening at St. Rita. The campus is quiet but alive and well! **The church will be open every day this week from 9:00am to just after 7:00pm.** While the church is open, we will have **Eucharistic Adoration** on the main Altar. Please feel free to take that time to pray quietly. Many today came to spend time in front of the Lord. It really is a place of calm and peace—please take advantage of that if you need it!

Also, we will have **Confessions** this week on Thursday, March 19, from 5:00pm to 7:00pm and Saturday, March 21, at 9:00am.

The Parish Office is also open this week for our normal business hours of 8:30am-4:30pm. Whatever business or conversation that can be had over the phone, please consider giving us a call instead. Nonetheless, there remains work to be done, so we are here.

Priests are available. We have rightly suspended lay visiting of the sick for the time being. If, however, there is an emergency, and you need a priest, you can simply call the main number at **972-934-8388** and wait for the emergency line prompt. That will reach a priest who will respond to your call.

If you have any other pastoral or logistical needs, please call our confidential **Care Ministries Help Line** at **214-451-6536**. We are currently working on a way to reach out to the members of our community who may be isolated and in need. More details about that will follow soon. At this point, just know we want to assist our elderly and vulnerable members if we can. If you think we can help you or anyone you know, please call us.

We are also currently working on ways our clergy can reach you via social media. Please be patient as we try to organize both platforms and content this week. Watch for bloopers! Seriously, however, we do feel the need to communicate with you as we hope to help you turn your hearts and minds on the Lord, which is undoubtedly the better thing to do while at home!

Also, again regarding financial matters: Last week I told you closing our doors on Sundays would result in a significant financial loss to our Parish. I wanted to be more detailed about that.

St. Rita receives approximately 65% of annual contributions from Sunday collections and through the mail. The remaining approximate 35% is received from online giving. That's significant because this past weekend, March 14-15, St. Rita received **zero** in cash and check contributions.

On an annual basis, St. Rita receives around \$45,000 in the collection basket and through the mail with \$25,000 online each week. This, of course, increases during the Advent and Lent seasons and decreases in the summer months.

The Parish Leadership Team met this morning to discuss proactive ways to cut expenses. Several campus projects are being postponed, and we will reduce our utility cost by lowering the temperature in certain



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buildings such as the School, the Commons, the Gym, and Sweeney Hall. Other ideas are being reviewed; and certainly, this will change as we adjust to this ever-developing situation.

If you would like to support St. Rita at this time, you may do so by contributing through our online service WeShare at the following link: <https://stritacc.weshareonline.org/>.

Alternatively, you may drop by your contribution by the Parish Office during business hours or mail your contribution to the following address:

St. Rita Parish
Attn. Business Office
12521 Inwood Rd.
Dallas, TX 75244

Finally, thank you for all your prayers and kind words of support. It means a lot to us. I am truly touched by the beauty of this community. Do not doubt that although these are very strange times, they are not overwhelming; and that's simply because we are the Catholic Church, the Body of Christ, St. Rita, the Rock stronger than all. Our bells still ring and will ring for a very long time to come, until Christ comes. They remind of us the heavenly foundation which is ours together and believers. So, listen for them as always. Because they're the sound of hope, the sound of all the hearts of our Parish.

I am, yours in Christ,

Fr. Joshua J. Whitfield
Pastoral Administrator
St. Rita Catholic Community