



St. Simon Stock – Saint Joseph Church
Carmelite Friars
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March 16, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

This morning we had a Parish Staff Meeting to discuss how we will continue to address the coronavirus pandemic. We have plans in place to make sure our buildings are cleaned regularly and are doing all we can to make sure our facilities are safe places to come and pray.

The effects of the coronavirus have certainly changed the way we live and will continue to do so for a while. Not having the Eucharist on a weekly basis makes us long for it even more. Here at St Simon Stock- St. Joseph Church we will follow the directives of the Archdiocese of New York and the City of New York regarding any further restrictions that have to be put in place. For now, the Church will remain open for personal prayer from 7:30am until 7pm. Beginning tomorrow the Eucharist will be exposed in the church for private prayer

So, please come and spend some time in church. Pray before the Blessed Sacrament. Consider praying the Rosary or other private prayers in the church, in front of the beautiful statues or simply sit and meditate on the readings of the day letting the word of God feed your soul.

Until further notice there will be no masses and no distribution of communion. All are encouraged to make a “spiritual communion”. It has long been a Catholic understanding that when circumstances prevent one from receiving communion, it is possible to make an Act of Spiritual Communion, which is a source of grace when we cannot receive the Eucharist.

These acts of Spiritual Communion normally increase our desire to receive sacramental communion and help us avoid the sins that would make us unable to receive communion worthily. This time, like no other, can be a beautiful time of prayer and appreciation for the Eucharist.

Please keep the following things in mind when coming to pray.

1. If you are sick, please do not come to the Church.
2. From 7:30am – 10:30am all the church doors will be open. From 10:30am – 7:00pm please enter the Church through the chapel side door.
3. We ask that you not congregate in the Chapel since it is small and not conducive to maintaining social distancing. There is plenty of room in the Church to sit silently.
4. We ask that you be 3-6 feet away from any other person in the church if they are not family members.

Finally, let's look forward to when we will be able to celebrate Mass again together and receive the Eucharist with a renewed appreciation and understanding of the gift that the Eucharist is for us because of this experience.

Stop by the church and take a bulletin and until this is over and if you wish, place your envelope or offering in the basket in the front of the church to support the financial needs of the parish during this time.

Please check our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/StSimonStockStJoseph> or parish website <https://saintsimonstockchurch.org> for regular updates.

May God bless you and keep you in His Care.

Fr Michael Kissane, O.Carm.

Pastor