

A Note from the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

The clocks moved forward early this morning which means Spring is coming soon, however it is still Winter and it is still Lent. Easter is five weeks away. Let us continue to prepare our hearts to celebrate Christ's victory over sin and death with joy.

Speaking of Winter, there is no question that this is still the time of cold and flu. In addition to the regular flu, there is also that nasty other virus going around the world (COVID-19) and everyone has to be careful about avoiding germs as best we can. As usual during winter months, distribution of the precious blood in the chalice ceases in this parish. That will continue until the worry of virus has passed. We are using the best solutions to kill germs while cleaning. Some people have decided to refrain from receiving Communion for the present time.

At most if not all the Masses last weekend, there was a strong suggestion to avoid shaking hands at the sign of peace. A wave of the hand or a wish of peace is not only not rude but extremely considerate in these worrisome times.

It is not easy but when we priests are at the doors to greet the people, we will do our very best not to shake hands. It wasn't my idea but the Center for Disease Control and Prevention says a fist bump or even an elbow bump is more hygienic. Somehow we will figure out how best to be friendly without spreading germs. If anyone feels ill or shows signs of sickness, it is best to stay home and call a doctor.

Together with the Archdiocese, we will monitor what is happening all around the country. Hopefully, the United States will not have to go in the direction of Italy where it has been necessary to cancel Masses to keep the corona virus away from people.

In any case, as we have a Safety Committee to help keep us safe from violence, every parish will have to heed advice from Health Professionals and Civil Authorities to help keep us safe from germs.

Above everything, let us keep our hearts set on the things of heaven, even as we deal with the things of the world. We shouldn't be afraid but cautious. God bless us all.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Monsignor Giandurco". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.