

March 16, 2020

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Our lives have changed dramatically just in the last twenty-four hours. I could not have imagined being where we are tonight and it's hard to envision how this will play out in the days and weeks ahead. I know the COVID-19 pandemic causes tremendous anxiety for everyone, especially for those who are elderly and those with chronic illness, but also for our families and young children.

As your pastor, I want you to know that my number one priority right now is to help you spiritually through this difficult time. Our parish staff and key leaders are brainstorming creative ways to maintain a sense of community and to continue ministering to you. Our website will be the primary way that we communicate with you in the weeks to come, and I would ask that you please visit it regularly for information, encouragement, and spiritual resources.

Tonight, let me share with you some of our next steps as a parish:

- Bishop Silva has cancelled all public Masses and gatherings through March 31, and he will re-evaluate the situation on March 27. I encourage you to view Mass on Catholic TV (KUPU) or EWTN (Ch. 1408) available on Spectrum cable television and to make a "spiritual communion."
- The church will be open during the day from 8:00 AM until 4:30 PM for private prayer, including the private praying of the Stations of the Cross.
- All of our standing ministries (Children's Ministry, EDGE, Life Teen, Men's Group, Women of Grace, Catholic Women, Bible Study, Centering Prayer, etc. are suspended through March 31. While many of these groups are not large, it is still recommended that everyone limits their contact with others. However, I'm asking our Ministry Coordinators to reach out to their members weekly via social media (email, text, Zoom, etc.). This will be an important way that we stay connected and help each other.
- The Parish Office is temporarily closed through March 31. Zach, Roeana, and I will continue to check our emails and phone messages remotely. Mass Intention requests can be emailed to Zach at zramones@rcchawaii.org and our phone number is 676-4700. I will offer those intentions privately. We will do our best to get back with you as soon as possible.
- Please consider giving online. We will need to sustain our parish financially during the next several weeks. You can mail your envelopes to the church, but a better/easier way to contribute is by creating an online giving account. This can be accessed from the Home page of our website: www.resurrectionhawaii.org. It will take only a few minutes to set this up using a credit/debit card, it is safe and secure, it doesn't require our volunteers to count money, provides the most accurate record of your giving, and it will greatly help support our parish's essential needs. I want to thank you in advance for continuing your financial stewardship through this time.
- Please sign up for Flocknote if you have not already done so. This is a parish text messaging system that will text you important notices and schedule changes. On your smartphones, go to your Messages, in the address bar type 84576 and in the message section type ROL and hit Send. You will receive a message that you are signed-up.

I have every confidence we will get through this uncertain time relying on our strong faith in Christ and our love for each other. The whole world is praying! Don't lose heart! God is faithful, and His mercy endures forever!

In Christ's love,

Fr. William