

Feast of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary – March 18, 2020

My dear parishioners and friends,

We know now that the “new normal” is anything but normal. The entire world has been affected by the COVID-19 virus. Things that we used to take for granted like hugs and handshakes are now reasons to stop and ask if we could be carriers of this virus?

We need to act as if we are!

Yet, in talking with people – the greatest response has been that of confidence that in these ever-changing and difficult times, – there is one constant and that is God. It is our trust in the Lord and God’s goodness that will see us through as individuals, families and citizens.

It is with this “new normal” in mind, that parish leaders from our pastoral and finance councils met with staff on St. Patrick’s Day to talk about what we need to be doing as a community of faith. As one leader put it:

- 1). Praying
- 2). Social distancing and self-quarantining
- 3). Communicating

To that end, we will continue to publish our weekly bulletin, priests will celebrate Mass privately for the intentions of our parishioners, and we will offer messages, meditations, links and Sunday Mass online. We will keep parishioners updated on any news from our diocese, and we will do our best to continue to address the pastoral and humanitarian needs of our parishioners and community.

Because of the virulent nature of this virus and its capacity to spread through social contact and its ability to remain alive on surfaces, in the air, and surrounding environment, our parish leaders along with staff determined that our church building will remain closed until further notice from the competent authorities.

In the meantime, as things progress, we will keep you posted on the latest developments and news from St. Joseph’s through our website and other means of communication.

We all realize that these are difficult times, and for that reason we must do our part to remain calm, say our prayers and look out for one another. If there is someone whom you know that is especially in need of assistance, please let us know.

In the meantime I share with you this quote from St. Teresa of Avila: “Let nothing perturb you, nothing frighten you. All things pass. God does not change.”

May God bless us all, Mary our Mother, St. Bernadette, St. Joseph and St. Patrick! Pray for us!
Fr. R.