

March 23, 2020

Dear Parishioners:

In this time of crisis, I want to assure our beloved parishioners of our prayers. Our faith began with difficult times after the death of our Lord, as the Apostles gathered in isolation in the Upper Room. Then, in an unexpected turn of events, despair changed into victory; our Lord passed through the locked doors and said, "Peace be with you." May our Lord grant us that peace today. Please pray for all those who risk their own health by performing the essential duties of medical and food requirements.

Our parish staff has been working hard to be faithful to the mission God has entrusted to us. Parishioners are asked not to congregate at the church. The church building is open for personal prayer, but remember to practice social distancing. I know that many of you long for Holy Communion and Confession. All parish meetings must be held virtually or suspended until after the crisis passes. For now, the Sacraments will be reserved only for those that are in danger of death. If you do need a priest, please contact Fr. Michael at the parish office and my cell phone number will be given to you. The nursing homes are in contact with Fr. Michael if there is a grave need.

To help us maintain a Spiritual Communion, we have developed our internet presence. If you go to the parish website, it will redirect you to our Facebook page: [SSCosmasandDamian@Facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/SSCosmasandDamian). We are live-streaming or playing recordings all day long online. This is the schedule:

<u>Monday-Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
7:00 Holy Hour	7:00 Holy Hour	7:00 Holy Hour
8:00 Morning Prayer (Lauds)	8:00 Morning Prayer (Lauds)	8:00 Morning Prayer
8:30 Holy Mass	10:00 Mass for those who have passed away.	9:00 Holy Mass
9:00 Rosary	12:00 Angelus	10:00 Faith Formation Lessons
10:00 Teachings	3:00 Divine Mercy Chaplet	11:00 Holy Mass
12:00 Angelus	4:00 Vigil Mass	7:00 Charismatic Prayer Group
2:00 Teachings	5:00 Evening Prayer (Vespers)	10:00 Night Prayer (Completas)
5:00 Evening Prayer (Vespers)	6:30 Mass in Spanish	
7:00 Teachings	10:00 Night Prayer (Completas)	
10:00 Night Prayer (Completas)		

The economic situation is looking pretty grim for many of our parishioners. If you are in need of food, please contact the Emergency Assistance group at 330-888-0134. Please let us know if there is anyone who is need of assistance to pick up groceries or medicines.

Some of our parishioners have signed up to use the *Electronic Funds Transfer*, or EFT, as a means of contributing to the parish. Funds are taken directly from your bank account and placed into the parish bank account without the need for envelopes or money in the collection basket. I ask our parishioners to reconsider their contributions through EFT. Right now, there may be families whose income has been significantly decreased. I do not want you to forget to contact the parish and have your contribution lowered or eliminated. Though we appreciate your generosity, **WE DO NOT WANT TO TAKE MONEY FROM FAMILIES WHO NEED IT.** For families who have the blessing to maintain their incomes, please consider signing up for the EFT so as to stabilize the finances of the parish during this time without the normal collections. Contact the parish Business Manager, Dave Papacjak, for more details.

I truly miss my flock. I hope and pray that you are well. Each day, your wellbeing is the center of my prayer. I offer my reception of Holy Communion for all of you in Spiritual Communion with the Church around the world. On a regular weekend, we used to have about 900 people come to Mass. On line, we have had over 2700 "views," meaning different computers tuned in to our live-streaming Mass. People are turning toward God, and God is turning toward His People. Keep up the hope and give each other a call. May a prayer space in your home and unite with your pastor in prayer and, even, thanksgiving. In a few weeks, God-willing, we will be back together again in the House of the Lord. God bless you all.

In Christ, Your Pastor,

Fr. Michael Stalla