

March 18th, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

This Lent we have been given the opportunity as perhaps never before to share as the Body of Christ in the passion of Jesus. We share in the uncertainty of what the corona pandemic will bring. More importantly we share in the certainty that as we share in the Paschal Mystery of Jesus that new life and hope will come from the suffering and anxiety of the present moment. As difficult as this moment is, it can be an opportunity to draw closer to the Lord in prayer and to each other as we support one another during this challenging time.

As you know all Masses and scheduled activities in the parish have been cancelled according to the instructions given by Bishop Brennan until and including Easter Sunday, April 12. This includes special Lenten services such as the Way of the Cross, the special March 25 confessions and all Holy Week services. As Sunday is always a special day of prayer, please consider taking advantage of the opportunity of viewing Mass on television or visiting www.stgabrielradio.com where you will find many other possibilities. As you do, remember in prayer all of your brothers and sisters in Christ who suffer from the virus as well as from the anxiety and fear created by this pandemic.

Please stay united with your fellow parishioners through our online bulletin which can be viewed each week via our website www.stjames-cpps.org. We also have a new APP for your phone or tablet, being activated this week, which will keep you up to date on our response to the corona pandemic. Please activate your access to the APP by going to myparishapp.com/appstore. This APP will also be a wonderful way to be aware of all areas of the life of our parish.

Not the least of the challenges of this time is the financial stress which everyone is experiencing. We understand the unique challenge this presents to everyone. We ask that you continue to support your parish as best as you can. You can mail your envelope, drop it by the parish office during regular hours or put it in the slot either at the rectory door by the garage or in the slot in the door to the rectory in the lobby. A new opportunity which was scheduled to be announced before the present pandemic began is the opportunity for on line giving. This is a secure, confidential and efficient way to support your parish. You can set up direct withdrawals from your checking, savings account or credit card. You can start, stop or change your contributions at any time. There is no need to write a check or have cash available. To start on line giving go to osvhub.com/st-james-the-less/funds. You will be directed to create an account and schedule your recurring gifts. We hope you will consider this option to support your parish. We are very aware of the challenges you are experiencing and just ask that you do the best you can.

As you face the challenges of the Corona Virus epidemic, you are not alone. As the Body of Christ we support one another united with our Lord who always transforms suffering into new life. We offer you with this letter, the prayer of Pope Francis during the coronavirus epidemic. Please consider praying it individually and as a family. Finally, if we can be of help to you with any religious issues or concerns you may have, please do not hesitate to give us a call at our office, 614-262-1179.

May the Lord continue to bless all our parish family during this special season of Lent.

Fr. Tony, Fr. Andy, Bro. Tom and the St. James the Less Staff



O Mary

You always shine on our path
as a sign of salvation and of hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,
who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm.

You, salvation of all peoples
know what we need,
and we are sure you will provide
so that, as in Cana of Galilee,
we may return to joy and to feasting
after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to confirm to the will of the Father
and to do as we are told by Jesus,
who has taken upon himself our sufferings
and carried our sorrows
to lead us, through the cross,
to the joy of the resurrection.

Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the
entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious
and blessed Virgin. Amen