

Never Isolated in Christ

YOUR WEEKLY CORONAVIRUS UPDATE FROM ASSUMPTION PARISH

MARCH 22, 2020

*For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel:
By waiting and by calm you shall be saved,
in quiet and in trust shall be your strength.*

*Truly, the LORD is waiting to be gracious to you,
truly, he shall rise to show you mercy;
For the LORD is a God of justice:
happy are all who wait for him!*

-Isaiah 30:15, 18

Pastor's Note

Dear Assumption Parishioners,

Thank you to all of you who have read and responded to my previous letters, first on the need to suspend all parish activity during this pandemic ([English](#) / [Español](#)) and second on the potential financial impacts to our parish ([English](#) / [Español](#)). It is my intention to send a letter to you each week while this crisis persists. Today's letter will help us prepare ourselves for and settle in to the long-term reality of these social distancing measures.

You are ever in my heart and in my prayers,

Fr. Moore

Help us Understand your Needs

There are a few questions that would be helpful to have answers to, as we continue to adjust to this new (temporary) reality. Please take five minutes to answer this survey.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Setting Times for the Streaming Masses

Many of our parishioners have been participating in our streaming Masses on [Fr. Moore's Facebook Page](#). Some of these parishioners have mentioned that they find it more meaningful to participate live than with the recording. To that end, Fr. Moore is going to try to hold to this streaming schedule:

- Monday: Variable (it is his day off)
- Tuesday – Friday: 9:00 a.m.
- Saturday: 6:00 p.m. [English Sunday Mass]
- Sunday: 8:00 a.m. [Spanish Sunday Mass]

How to Attend Mass at Home

Here are some tips for making a streaming Mass meaningful.

Make the Experience Special

1. Set up a home “altar” on which to place the laptop or tablet. Maybe include a holy card or a lighted candle. Remove any distractions or clutter from the area.
2. Attend together as a family.
3. Maybe dress up like normal for Mass. Or at least try to change out of your pajamas.
4. Spend a few minutes in silent prayer before the Mass begins.

Participate

1. Make all the responses like you normally would at Mass.
2. Stand up, sit down, and kneel like you normally would at Mass.
3. For the English Sunday Mass, we will try to post the hymn names ahead of time. Copyright issues make it hard for us to post the lyrics, but the internet might be ... less fastidious than we are.

Make an Act of Spiritual Communion

Even while we cannot receive the Eucharist in person, the following prayer can be prayed while the priest receives communion:

*My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most holy Eucharist.
I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace you as if you were already there
and unite myself wholly to you.
Never permit me to be separated from you.
Amen.*

Other tips for praying at home (outside of Mass) can be found here in [English](#) or [Español](#).

Looking for Health Care Professionals

Our health care workers are some of the true heroes in this epidemic, putting themselves on the front lines to keep people safe. Unfortunately, we have to ask them for yet another possible sacrifice.

There will likely come a time when the priests of the area are called to minister to a person dying of COVID-19 who is not in a hospital and properly isolated but who is instead at home or in a non-medical assisted living facility.

The diocese is providing a limited number of home anointing kits (with all the necessary personal protective equipment) to priests who need them but the archdiocese does not trust that we all know how to properly use this equipment. **So we have been asked to look for healthcare professionals who might be willing to accompany priests on sick calls to homes / facilities in the area, in order to ensure that the PPE is properly affixed before we enter the situation.**

If you are willing to volunteer, please contact Fr. Moore at frmoore@assumption.org.

Plenary Indulgence Related to COVID-19

Rome has granted a plenary indulgence related to COVID-19. An indulgence does not forgive sins but instead removes any time in Purgatory that might have been necessary due to those sins. It is, essentially, a recognition of a penance already done, and an application of that penance in reparation for a person's sins.

The decree from Rome ([English](#) / [Español](#)) reads:

*“The Plenary Indulgence is granted **to the faithful suffering from Coronavirus, who are subject to quarantine by order of the health authority in hospitals or in their own homes** if, with a spirit detached from any sin, they unite spiritually through the media to the celebration of Holy Mass, the recitation of the Holy Rosary, to the pious practice of the Way of the Cross or other forms of devotion, or if at least they will recite the Creed, the Lord's Prayer and a pious invocation to the Blessed Virgin Mary, offering this trial in a spirit of faith in God and charity towards their brothers and sisters, with the will to fulfil the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer according to the Holy Father's intentions), as soon as possible.*

*“**Health care workers, family members** and all those who, following the example of the Good Samaritan, exposing themselves to the risk of contagion, care for the sick of Coronavirus according to the words of the divine Redeemer: “Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends” (Jn 15: 13), will obtain the same gift of the Plenary Indulgence under the same conditions.*

*“This Apostolic Penitentiary also willingly grants a Plenary Indulgence under the same conditions on the occasion of the current world epidemic, also **to those faithful** who offer a visit to the Blessed Sacrament, or Eucharistic adoration, or reading the Holy Scriptures for at least half an hour, or the recitation of the Holy Rosary, or the pious exercise of the Way of the Cross, or the recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, to implore from Almighty God the end of the epidemic, relief for those who are afflicted and eternal salvation for those whom the Lord has called to Himself.*

*“The Church prays for **those who find themselves unable to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick and of the Viaticum**, entrusting each and every one to divine Mercy by virtue of the communion of saints and granting the faithful a Plenary Indulgence on the point of death, provided that they are duly disposed and have recited a few prayers during their lifetime (in this case the Church makes up for the three usual conditions required). For the attainment of this indulgence the use of the crucifix or the cross is recommended (cf. Enchiridion indulgentiarum, no.12).”*

Rome also provided a note about sacramental confession during these times ([English](#) / [Español](#)).