

March 27, 2020

Greetings my fellow parishioners: On behalf of myself, Fr. Arun and Deacon Jim, we would like to extend our thoughts and prayers to you during this most difficult time in our town, nation, world and Church. The point of this letter is to let you know that the Parish of Good Shepherd will continue to serve your needs regardless of world events. We are still here for YOU!

In an effort to keep you informed, this letter will outline for you some events still happening (virtually) and ways in which you can still be connected to this wonderful parish.

Bulletin: The bulletin will be available weekly ONLINE. Simply go to the parish website where information from the bulletin is posted. Here you will find most current information. Once we know something, it will be posted immediately. You may want to check the bulletin daily.

Weekly Mass: Each weekend, the Mass will be posted online via Facebook and YouTube. Check the website for the link.

Outreach: Although social media is an excellent way to reach out to others, we are acutely aware that not all of our parishioners are connected to the web. With that said, I want to assure you through the graciousness of your Pastoral Council, phone calls will be made to our elderly and shut-ins. If you have a need or know someone who could use our assistance, let us know.

Faith Formation: Our director, Katie Ventra, is working closely with the teachers to send out packets with information for our students. More information concerning First Communion and Confirmation will follow.

Virtual Church: We are in the process of acquiring specialized cameras that will allow us to live-stream the interior of the church. This will allow us to have specialized events like Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Stations of the Cross for those who are web-connected. Check the website for links to these events.

Holy Week: Bishop Bambera announced that the services of Holy Week will not be public. The church has guidelines on how these services are to be conducted without the physical presence of the laity. Once our camera system is set up, we will give you the link to allow you to view the Holy Week Services.

Finances: I can assure you that we are financially stable at this present time. Because of your generosity over the past few years under the direction of Fr. McHugh, the parish is in an OK spot for now.

Envelopes: Many have inquired about your envelopes. We will leave it up to you how you want to get them to us. Some are mailing them; some are dropping them off at the office in a basket by the office door, while others are waiting when they come back to church.

Office: Our office is open Monday through Friday from 7:00AM to Noon by PHONE, MAIL, or EMAIL ONLY. We ask that you not come into the office.

Church Building: The church will be open Monday through Friday from 7:00AM to 2:00PM. Please feel free to come by for a visit.

Be assured of our prayers for you. If you need to talk, just call the office and listen to the option for the priest. I will call you so we can chat.

We WILL get through this most difficult time. Have FAITH. Know that we are here for YOU!

Your Pastor,

Fr. Mike