

March 17, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

May God's peace be with you all in these stressful and strange times. I wanted to update you on a few things at our local parishes, because this has been very busy but I'm already seeing a lot of grace in these moments.

It is so important that we communicate right now and I want to ask you to be proactive in receiving communication from us. We are trying to use as many ways of communicating as possible in this moment and we know that not everyone is able to communicate with us through every single means of communication.

Currently, our staff is in the process of calling all of our registered parishioners to see how they are doing. This is obviously very time consuming, but we are working as fast as we can. Do not wait for us to call everyone, it could be days before we finish this. If you are worried about a parishioner, call them. During those phone calls we will be trying to confirm email addresses with all of our parishioners, because email will probably be our easiest way to catch up with you.

In addition to email, we will also be posting regularly on the St. Rose Facebook page, as well as Fr. Bryan Ochs' personal Facebook page. Please do not wait for updates to appear in your newsfeed, because Facebook will not show you everything we post. Actively check these pages throughout the day to see if we have updates.

Please visit this site to see our parish blog: <https://www.stroselongview.com/blog>

I am also uploading a video every day on YouTube. You can click here to see the video that I uploaded today: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZZHFxu_cIPQ

I also want to make a few things clear, the first being that it is important for us to listen to leadership right now, not just in the Church, but in the country and state. President Trump, Governor Inslee, and our own bishops are urging us to stay inside and to limit our communication. It is important that we follow their instructions as best as we can.

This is not about us being fearful. This is about us loving our community. I am staying indoors, but not because I am afraid of the Corona Virus. I am not in a demographic considered vulnerable to this virus and I am not worried about it for my own health. But, I am still visiting vulnerable populations for anointings (in grave circumstances) and do not want to spread this to them. So please do your part and stay in.

This is a historically significant moment for the Church and the world. We are literally writing history right now. In moments like these, God called up saints to be light to the world, and I believe that he is doing that right now. Years from now, people will be looking back at this moment to find how we made it through, and our faith and the teachings of Jesus are what will stand out. So do not lose heart. Have hope. This will end and, when it does, the world will be better in many ways than it was before.

There is so much more to say, but I want to keep these messages short and clear. Please be on the lookout for this and other communications from us. I love you and miss you all!

Fr. Bryan