

April 4, 2020

Hi Everyone,

I'm happy to report that after calling our parishioners, everyone seems to be doing fairly well at this point. There are many stories of kindness and good will going on around our community, within the Church and outside of the Church. We have a strong and caring community, and my confidence that we will make it through this time remains high.

From this point forward, I plan to keep our future communication with you very brief and to the point. Keeping in mind that this is a stressful time for many, I don't want frequent and unnecessary communication to add to anyone's stress. For those looking for more information or resources, I once again want to refer you to the St. Rose Church Facebook page and encourage you to check it regularly.

Still, for those who do not use Facebook, we will try and offer you important news and highlights at the end of these emails.

As for Holy Week, we will be streaming Holy Thursday Mass and Good Friday Service at 7pm on facebook. This will be bilingual. We will not be streaming an Easter Vigil. We will stream Easter Sunday at 1pm in English and 6pm in Spanish also on facebook. I know some people feel left out because they do not use facebook, but this is really the best option that we have, and it is either that or nothing at this point. If you are unable to use this platform I want to suggest you watch Holy Week liturgies on EWTN.

I also want to be clear that I, Fr. Sebastin, and our other staff members are available to you during this time. If you'd like to connect with us over the phone or in person, please call the St. Rose office at 360-425-4660 to set up an appointment.

Onto the promised news:

- Sheltering in place will be a challenge for many but it also provides us with an important opportunity to strengthen our families and marriages. It is a time to grow emotionally and spiritually closer as spouses, but it will also be a challenging time for many people. We are encouraging families to spend two to three hours off of technology and in some type of activity together.
- While crime is reportedly decreasing in many places, there is one type of crime spiking at the moment: Domestic Violence. Please pray for all these victims and if you know of any domestic violence going on in your home or neighborhood please call 911 or the Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233.
- Also, we ask that you pray for doctors. In addition to asking that they be successful in their profession of healing and that they themselves are kept from harm, we must pray because many individuals will be making very difficult ethical decisions about who should receive care and who shouldn't. These will not be easy to do especially without lots of time to think and reflect.
- St. Rose School has hired a new principal. Kristin Silva has been teaching fourth and/or fifth grade at St. Rose for 13 years and is ready to take on more responsibility. Please pray for her as she prepares to get started this summer!

Know of my continued prayers,

Fr. Bryan