

May 9, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

I wanted to clarify to you all that there will not be any parking lot masses in the Archdiocese of Seattle at this time. The sense from the presbyterate is that this would not be fruitful right now, and most parishes are unprepared to execute a celebration in a parking lot fruitfully, especially since the governor would prefer we do not distribute communion during a Mass. I know that will be upsetting to many, but it is the decision at this time. As for our parishes, I don't know how we would have been prepared for a reverent celebration that would be fruitful for attendees.

As I have repeatedly said, even if this is a bad decision from the Archbishop and even if I am wrong to follow his lead, God will not deprive you of everything you need to be a Saint right now. He will provide for you as he has done countless times when the sacraments have been unavailable to the body of Christ. Please, focus on what you do have in these times and what has been taken away from you. It will make a big difference.

In these strange times, many parishioners are reporting to be growing closer to God. In my recent survey, I was able to analyze why that must be. I can tell you that those who are growing in faith agreed with certain statements much more than those who are not growing in faith. Those statements are:

- "The pandemic is giving me an opportunity to make positive changes in my life."
- "I am discovering new ways to pray during this pandemic"
- "Our parishes will be stronger when this is over."
- "Many people will come out of this happier than they were before the pandemic began"
- "God is allowing this to happen to bring good out of it."

If you don't feel positive or if you feel like your faith isn't growing, I want to encourage you to think about these statements a bit. Are people growing because they believe these? Or do they believe these because they are growing? I don't know, but I believe that they reinforce each other. So keep thinking about them.

I, for one, believe all of these are true. I feel very close to God right now. My faith is growing stronger right now and I am happier to be a priest than ever. I cannot wait to

resume full masses again with our parishioners present and I pray every day that this ends so I can see you all again.

Another concern some have is that they cannot view our livestreams because they are on facebook, and they do not have facebook accounts. Well, I have good news for you. You do not need a facebook account to join our livestreams. You should be able to see them by going to our page (which you can access without an account) and scrolling down until you see the live video. *Click here to find our page:* [facebook.com/S...](https://www.facebook.com/S...)

I also want to let you know that we are doing a lot of work to stay in touch with our parishioners who do not have the internet. Every Monday I send them a letter with words of encouragement and helpful news as well as a copy of my Sunday homily. If you know anyone who is not receiving this, please let us know and we will add them to my distribution list. Also, if you know anyone who would appreciate a call from me or another staff member, don't hesitate to let us know!

Everyone hang in there! God is at work in all of this and I can't wait to hear all the stories of how he is blessing you in these times. Until then, please know that I miss you all very much and can't wait to see you again soon.

Fr. Bryan