

March 21, 2020

Message from Father Bryan Ochs

Hello Everyone!

First, I want to tell you that my prayers remain with you and your families during this time. Fr. Sebastin and I are still offering Mass every day and working hard to serve all of you. This is shaping up to be a busy time but, as I've constantly said, it will also be a time of grace and there will be a lot of good that comes about from these difficulties. Don't lose hope. Stay positive and stay faithful!

A few people had a question for clarification on my last email update. It is true I was a little frantic and didn't pick my words carefully. I said, "President Trump, Governor Inslee, and our own bishops are urging us to stay inside and to limit our communication." The word communication should have been replaced with, "interactions with others." I apologize.

I also want to let you know that my initial plan to send an email every day is unlikely to happen. It is just very, very busy and writing something every day is proving to be very difficult. Still, as things settle down and different loose ends are tied up in the office, there will likely be more time to write and reflect soon.

We are heading into our second straight weekend without Mass and at this time we do not know how long this will last. I am hoping and praying it ends soon, but am preparing myself for a long haul and I think you should as well. In the next few days, I will be releasing a parish prayer plan for us to all unite in prayer to end this virus, to reduce the economic impact on the poor, and for the courage to do our duty to help our community through this. So please stay tuned.

I also want to announce that Sunday, March 22nd, I will be attempting to live stream Mass using Facebook live. For those who do not have Facebook, I'm really sorry, but there just aren't other good options for this. I'm hoping to use the St. Rose sanctuary but if internet access there is weak, I might have to make use of our private chapel in the rectory.

In the meantime, we have sent a letter through the mail to everyone in our four parish databases and are still working hard to call everyone personally to assess their needs. I'm pleased to report that, to this point, our parishioners all seem to be doing really well. My heart is also warmed by the outpouring of generosity being offered to our parishioners in this time. This gives me a lot of hope and reassures me that yes, we will make it through this and we will be better off than we were before!

I do also want to acknowledge our hard working staff members. They have been incredible in this time and are working hard to serve us all. They have primarily been calling everyone and praying for all of you throughout the day. The feedback they have received will help us in our communications as we move forward and will help us stay in touch for the next several weeks.

I hope you all have a very blessed day. Again, I am not sure when to send our next email or how often you should expect them, but it will come out soon!

I miss you all!

Fr. Bryan