

March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020

To my dear parishioners,

By now you've heard that we ended public Masses yesterday. Due to the coronavirus outbreak and the necessary precautions being put into place by our leaders, we will make the difficult sacrifice of not offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in public for the foreseeable future. How long will this last? Only God knows, but minimally we won't have any more public Masses this month. Let's storm Heaven with our prayers and beg God to intervene so that we may celebrate Holy Week together at Holy Name. This was to be my first Holy Week with you and I was looking very much forward to it . . . maybe we'll be past the worst of the threat by then and our spiritual lives will resume as before.

For now, we're working out a plan to have the church open on a regular basis. I'll also post a confession schedule so that we can prepare our hearts and souls for Easter. You'll find in the bulletin this weekend (on-line) a spiritual communion prayer that is a beautiful way to unite our hearts with Jesus. I'll be posting more Martin's Minutes on the website as well as on our Facebook page. If you need a priest, please call me and I'll do my best to serve with a generous spirit.

For now, we'll have the church open tomorrow and Friday (March 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>) from 7:00-8:30 a.m. I'll be available for confession beginning at 7:30 a.m. both days. We're not to exceed 10 people in the church at a time, so a parish volunteer will keep an eye on this. Please use the elevator entrance when you come. On Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, the church will be open from 8:30-10:00 a.m. and I'll be available for confessions the entire time. The rule about 10 people being the limit applies until we hear otherwise. On Saturday afternoon I will celebrate our weekend Mass and put it on the website at 4:00 p.m. This Mass is not open to the public – I'll have only enough people to record the Mass and do the readings. We'll plan on this for the next few weeks. Beginning next Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, we'll have the church open in the mornings and the evenings. I'll update this with specific times later this week.

Please know that I will sorely miss seeing you at Mass on Sundays, and especially the daily Mass crowd – we've gotten to know each other over these past 8 months and you are a big part of my life now. With God's help, we'll accept this heavy cross and offer the suffering of separation to the Lord, "who makes all things new."

God bless and keep you, my dear friends in Christ!  
Father Samuel Martin

P.S. All Mass intentions will be honored and offered at the scheduled time. The only exception is that I will only offer one Mass each Sunday, meaning the second intention will be moved to a future date.