

March 20, 2020

Weekend update: I hope you and your loved ones are well! Our parish staff joined together yesterday with Pope Francis and the world and prayed the Rosary for you and your intentions. These are unsettling times, but paradoxically it's during times of suffering that our faith grows the most. I write today to give you a brief update of what we're doing to help you sustain hope in your heart and trust in our Providential Father.

Schedule: Holy Name church will be open on Saturday, March 21st from 8:30-10:00 a.m. for private prayer and confessions. As always, we'll regulate things so that we do not exceed 10 people at a time. On Sunday, March 22nd, the church will be open from 8:30-11:30 a.m. with Eucharistic Adoration. I will be in church praying too, but if you want to go to confession, just ask me. Next week the church will be open from 7:00-8:30 a.m. Monday-Friday, and 5:00-6:00 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday. I'll be available for confessions from 7:30-8:30 Tuesday-Friday and 5:00-6:00 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday.

Sustenance for your faith: You're welcome to pick up a bulletin in church – we printed 150 of them and if you're able to deliver them especially to parishioners without access to our website, that would be wonderful. We're setting up a bookshelf that has spiritual books for you to take and return when you're finished. Holy Water is available and always a beautiful reminder of our Baptism. There are Rosaries too, so please help yourselves to these devotional materials.

Material needs: People have wondered what we're doing about our weekly collections. For now, we're still in the black as a parish, which is a testament to our parishioners and their generosity. However, we won't stay in the black unless we continue to give sacrificially. You're welcome to send in your donations by mail, or drop them under the slot in the entrance of the parish center. If you're not able to give, please support us with your prayers. God will get us through this present crisis, and more precious by far are the immortal souls of every human being. While we're fighting hard to keep everyone healthy, the main goal of our life is to get to Heaven. No matter what, we try to remember that and work toward being ready for the day the Lord calls us home.

Questions? Please call the parish center and ask for me if you have questions. I'm praying a lot because I frankly don't have many answers at this point. The priests are conferring with each other so as to come up with the best response to a crisis that many of us didn't see coming. You and your intentions are in my prayers always, and I know that you pray for me in the most beautiful and generous ways. When I was a kid, I remember hearing many times the phrase, "*This too shall pass.*" And indeed, it shall.

God bless you, my beloved flock! I look forward to being spiritually united with you and Jesus this Sunday in the Mass.

Your friend in Christ,
Father Martin