

March 19, 2020

Dear Parish Family Members,

During these uncertain times, the first thing we can do is to pray for each other. Be assured of my prayers for all of you; I ask for your prayers. Even though we are not gathering for Mass, we remain a community of faith. As a community of faith, we hopefully will do what we can to sustain and support each other.

I urge you to reach out to one another by phone and the internet to encourage and check-up on each other. The health officials that I listen to encourage all of us for the foreseeable future to practice “social distancing.” Avoid getting into groups of people.

As a faith community, we have taken for granted the availability of Mass, the Eucharist, and sacraments. In the current situation, we find ourselves in communion with the majority of Catholics globally having infrequent opportunities during the normal times of their lives to go to Mass and receive the Eucharist. For example, many of the people of Bishop Djomo’s diocese, in the best of times, are able to go to Mass once a month. As you see, we find ourselves more closely in communion with Catholics worldwide.

I would also ask that you practice Christian charity. I am disturbed by the hoarding I have witnessed in the grocery stores. People looking out for themselves alone; that certainly is not what Christians do! Christianity is a communal faith and a belief system that calls us to share and support each other.

Currently, the church is open from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. daily for private prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. The parish office is open from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Print copies of the parish bulletin for the weekend will be available by Friday. The bulletin will also continue to be available online. You are encouraged to follow parish information on Facebook, the parish website, and FlockNote. If you are **not** currently signed-up for FlockNote, you can do so online or by stopping by the parish office.

Finally, I remind you that as we seek to minister to our community, we have our usual expenses and we anticipate that our outreach efforts to our local community will increase. To meet those needs, we pray for continued financial support. You can drop your weekly contributions in the secure parish mailbox outside the parish office or at the parish office during office hours.

During the challenges of the coming weeks we must pray for each other, asking God to give us wisdom, patience, and perseverance. We also ask God to help us identify and assist those among us in greatest need.

Mary, the Untier of Knots, pray for us.

Fr. John