3/31/2020

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. MM parish,

**We are living through unprecedented and uncertain times.** Even as we all find new ways to live and be church, let us remember that God is with us and will never abandon us. Please **know the staff and I miss you and love you and are with you.**

This pandemic has changed the way we are able to practice our faith. All public Masses are closed, Confession and Baptism are not available, and First Communion and Confirmation programs are suspended until further notice. **Nothing could be more painful** for me and the other priests … and Bishop Barnes too …than having to suspend Sunday Mass and other fundamental Catholic faith practices. It is a cross we carry together this Lenten season.

The best we can offer is to **Livestream \*prayer services from our church**:

**Weekend Masses**: **Saturdays** at 4pm (English) and 6pm (Spanish)

**Sundays** at 9am (English) and 1pm (Spanish).

**Weekday Masses**: 7am (English)

6:30 pm Mon/Wed in Eng.… and Tues/Thurs. in Sp. … Fri 7pm Way of Cross

**Weekday Prayer:** Morning Prayer: 9am Weekday Evening Prayer: 9pm

We are also committed to having a live person for you to speak with during all normal parish hours.

Sadly, we know this crisis will affect many of you financially … and it will certainly devastate parish finances. *If anyone needs to temporarily discontinue their automatic giving for now, please let us know immediately, and without embarrassment or hesitation.*

On the other hand, if you find yourself able to navigate these financial times without serious damage, I ask you to consider dropping your normal envelope offering in the parish mailbox, or sign up for automatic giving (<https://www.osvonlinegiving.com/2950> ) … and even increase your offering to help us and others through this hard time. We are committed to retaining all parish employees for at least the next two months.

In the midst of this crisis we may be tempted to isolate ourselves in fear. Please remember our Catholic faith calls us to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus in all circumstances. Perhaps this is our time to strengthen family bonds, contact old friends and certainly show extra compassion to the poor. And, hopefully you will be receiving a call from our parish outreach in the next days.

The corona virus may frighten us, but it will not defeat us. **The Good Shepherd will guide us together in the days and weeks ahead.** Smile! God loves you!

Peace, All Good!

* Information: links to livestream; also, weekly news and notices on our parish website: [www.smmchino.org](http://www.smmchino.org)
* To see our sanctuary anytime, 24 hrs. a day, go to <https://masslivestream.com/churches/stmargaretmary>