

March 17, 2020

My Dear Parishioners:

We find ourselves in uncharted waters. Never would I have imagined that something would bring about a suspension of public Masses, yet here we are. Our Bishop suspended public worship with the health and safety of the faithful as his primary concern. The priests will continue to offer the Mass for the intentions already reserved and although not in your presence, it is you who your priests pray for. At the beginning and end of each day I offer prayers for the people of Our Lady of Victories asking our Blessed Mother to watch over and protect you.

While not able to receive Holy Communion as you have before, you can make a Spiritual Communion. This effort will unite you to the Eucharistic Jesus.



SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

It is a pious desire to receive the Holy Eucharist, when it is not possible to receive it Sacramentally.

It should consist of three parts:

- An act of Faith, by which we renovate our firm belief in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. It is an excellent preparation for Communion, whether Spiritual or Sacramental.
- An act of desire to receive Christ sacramentally and to unite intimately with Him. This is what formally constitutes Spiritual Communion.
- A fervent petition in which we ask Our Lord to grant us spiritually all the fruits and graces that we would obtain through Sacramental Communion.

Many people find themselves at home and uncertain about the situation with the COVID-19 virus. Schools are closed and places of public gathering have shut their doors. In a frenzy, people are rushing to stores to purchase things they believe they will need should matters become worse. Trusting in God with complete confidence that He will deliver us from this present situation must be on our minds and in our hearts. Typically, as trust increases, fear decreases.

Pray this prayer daily for a speedy end to this health threat:

FOR THOSE IN ISOLATION

God of compassion,
Be close to those who are ill,
Afraid or in isolation.
in their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light;
through him who suffered alone
on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Without you present at Mass, you can imagine how this will impact our finances. I ask that you please continue your financial support as your means allow, even while public Masses are suspended. Our expenses remain the same and your generosity is needed now. For those who use the online giving system please continue. If you wish to sign up for online giving please visit (www.osvonlinegiving.com/2970). For those accustomed to placing your weekly offering in the collection basket, I ask you to please mail your offerings to the parish office. I pray God will bless you for your generous heart as He helps us to move past this time of trial.

Peace

Fr. Robert