

May 4, 2020

My dear Parishioners and friends of St. Joseph Parish,

As most of us are in shelter in place for several weeks now, I just wanted to reach out to you again. How are you doing? I hope and pray that you & your family are doing okay.

What an amazing community we have here at St. Joseph. I sincerely thank each member of our parish community for your patience, prayers and the financial support you render to our spiritual home. Thank you for your patience, thank you for your love and thank you for your financial support in these difficult times. Without your support we would not be able to do any of these. Thank you so much.

I hear from some of you that you deeply miss coming to Church and not being able to receive the Lord in the Holy Eucharist. I too feel with you in this time of uncertainty where we cannot plan anything and be present as we do not have any idea as what would the next week bring before us. However, let us all with patience wait for the Lord's time and prepare ourselves as best as we can with more prayer, patience, perseverance, family and steadfastness in inviting the Lord into our everyday life. Our Chapel is open from 9am to 5pm for private prayer and we are available for confessions on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 3.30pm to 4.30pm.

What unites and brings us all together is our faith in the Risen Lord. With faith there is hope, meaning and certainty that we will get through this time with the help from God and support from each other. Since most of us are in shelter in place, last week we purchased a one-year subscription of [FORMED.ORG](https://www.formed.org) for the parish. It is a great resource for all of us to grow in faith. Fulton J Sheen once said ignorance of our religion is ignorance of God. Knowledge will help us to grow in prayer, communion with God, in relationship and intimacy with God. Let us use this Shelter in place to learn a little bit more about our faith and to build our families strong in Christ. I am sure [FORMED.ORG](https://www.formed.org) is going to be a great resource for your family to learn together, discuss, share, grow and better appreciate the meaning of our Christ centered life through faith. May I hope that you will make the best use of it during this time to learn, know and deepen our knowledge of our faith to enter a personal relationship with Jesus.

I am so happy to be here with you all at St. Joseph Church as one among you. As a parish we are all trying our best to be in communication with you all so that you would know what is happening in our spiritual home, St. Joseph Church.

- Since the shelter-in-place order we have reached out to our parish families through snail mail two times. Our front office staff, with the leadership of Jhoanna, Byanka, Timi and our volunteers, mailed out almost 7400 letters to our parish families, we tried to contact close to two thousand individuals/families through emails, and made 4200 phone calls to our families with the help of 90 volunteers.
- With the help of Manolito and his choir team, Jerome, Gail, Alice and our Liturgy and Worship team we initiated and continue our livestream Mass Sunday through Friday. Joe is doing a great job with the sound system. Let's congratulate and thank all of them and all our volunteers helping with this ministry, and the great effort they are making to livestream Emmaus Hour and the Eucharistic celebration live.

- With the help of Maclovia and Gerry we were able to power wash and do some of the much-needed church and plant clean ups. Now they have started lawn care and cleaning up the parking lot. In the meantime, some of our parishioners stopped by to mow the lawn in front of the church facing Nut Tree Road, helped with some of the lighting in the church and trimming the brushes. We are also in negotiation to improve our lawn care to make our spiritual home look beautiful.
- Jerome is in contact with the children in our faith formation classes through their catechists as he receives updates from the diocese. He has also started reaching out to the families who are in our faith formation. Dennis & Edith is leading the RCIA classes online.
- Deacon Scott and the attendees just finished the Bible study series via Zoom.
- Fr. Juan Carlos is helping me with the Holy Mass and other areas where I need help. Fr. Juan Carlos has a great technical mind and with his recommendation we have a new web camera which has improved the livestream quality. He is also leading the youth group via zoom.
- In a short span of time with the leadership of our school principal and his team, our school children continue their Distance Learning. Although this online schooling is a new territory for our schools, Mr. Jensen and his team is doing an amazing job.

Please join me to sincerely thank them all for their commitment, devotion and love with which they care for our spiritual home.

Lastly, please read the two enclosed letters...

**A letter from one of our parishioners** about the importance of your weekly offering

**A letter from our parish office manager** about the need to update and correct our database.

**You will also be receiving a letter from Fr. Juan Carlos** about the youth group.

**You will be receiving a letter from our parish Faith Formation Director** updating you about the CFF program during the shelter in place and the new online registration for 2020-2021 school year.

Thank you very much for your support. I just wanted to share with you the good things that are happening in our parish and hope this information was helpful to you. May the Lord bless you and your family.

Sincerely in the Risen Lord,

Fr. Joshy Mathew CMI  
Parochial Administrator