

Church of St. Joseph

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Rev. Jeffrey M. Calia, C.O., Administrator

March 27, 2020

Dear Brothers & Sisters:

As we navigate the extreme disruption of our lives from the unfolding Coronavirus crisis, we could very easily give in to fear. However, St. John tells us that perfect love drives away fear, and we are able to love because God has loved us first (1 Jn 4:18-19). We can stand with courage in the face of this threat, because we stand on the foundation of God's love. *Nothing that can happen to us can snatch us out of His hand.* We must draw close to Him and draw our strength from Him for living these days. We are living through a long, painful Lent, but Easter is coming! And we must not forget each other, especially the most vulnerable among us. This terrible moment can transform us and our culture for the better, if we allow the Lord to do His work and bring good out of evil.

For now, we are unable to gather together physically in Church, but *we can still worship the Lord and support each other.* The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life, and will continue to sustain us through this time of sorrow, distress, and separation. **Until we return to church, please join me and my brother Oratorians each day as we offer Mass for your intentions. You can view the Mass through our parish website (<https://stjosephraritan.weconnect.com>), or directly on YouTube on the Raritan Oratory channel. The liturgies of the Sacred Paschal Triduum will be broadcast live (check website for schedule).** Please remember also to reach out to neighbors and fellow parishioners to check on them and offer them assistance.

Know that your Church is here for you. While Jim, Fr. Kevin, and I are primarily working from home these days, we are working! **You can reach us by calling the parish office at 908-725-0163 or by email at parishoffice@sjraritan.org.**

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Website: <https://stjosephraritan.weconnect.com> Email: parishoffice@sjraritan.org

Your Church needs you, too! During this time without public Masses, there is also no collection. The Sunday collection is our primary means of financial support in order to pay our staff, operate our buildings, etc. **We encourage you to continue making your regular contributions to ensure the financial stability of our parish and our ability to meet our obligations.** You can do this by mailing in your envelopes weekly, *but we have a new option to offer:* Online Giving through ParishSoft.

Many of us already do our banking and pay our bills online. Online Giving is easy to register for, it is safe & secure, and since it is automatic, it provides a reliable source of income for funding our parish operations. **Please see the enclosed flyer and visit our parish website for more information and to register.** Let us know if you have any questions. And thanks!

Let us continue to keep each other in prayer. God willing, we will soon gather together again in our beautiful church to offer thanks and praise to God.

Those whom the Lord has ransomed will return and enter Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy; They will meet with joy and gladness, sorrow and mourning will flee. (Isaiah 51:11)

In Christ & St. Philip Neri,



Rev. Jeffrey M. Calia, C.O.
Administrator