

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

I want to make every effort to reach out to you during this period of isolation that is so necessary to combat the spread of this deadly coronavirus in our midst. Please offer special prayers for all who are ill as well as the medical personnel and first responders providing care for them.

I invite you to view our present circumstances as a time of opportunity to step back from normal pressures and distractions of life due to social distancing. With time in hand, we could examine ways to strengthen and deepen our walk with Jesus Christ. Recall the Old Testament times when the Israelites were wandering through the wilderness? There was not a temple for them to worship, but only the Tent that contained the Arc of the Covenant with the Ten Commandments, which was carried and moved about. God was wandering with them in the form of fire and clouds leading them to the land of promise. We share a similar journey now.

In the New Testament God speaks to us through his Son Jesus' words. You could read the Gospel as a family and worship God from home when we cannot gather in the church to celebrate the Eucharist. There are many beautiful Catholic reflections and devotions available online at no cost. We've placed many offerings on our parish website, www.stjamesmukwonago.org. There you'll also find links to Archbishop ListECKI's letter to the faithful, as well as an Archdiocesan daily reflection.

Finally, I need to talk about something that is more corporal but still important. This virus is affecting our ability to minister to others, not only because of physical distancing, but because our regular income at St. James is being diminished. Can you please help us by making your contribution? Your donation will provide instant budget relief, ensuring we are able to withstand this unprecedented situation.

Many of our ministries focus on the spiritual needs of our parishioners. However, many other ministries, often unseen, help provide assistance to the poor, the elderly, the homebound and those most vulnerable in our community. We are and always will be a community of believers taking care of those less fortunate.

Our budget is tight. If we don't fill this unexpected gap in offerings, I'm concerned that we won't be able to continue our mission of service to all who need it. There is no doubt that God will provide, but He needs us now to keep working together as His hands and feet!

An envelope is enclosed for your convenience. You can return it by mail or drop it in the drop box at the parish office, between the two front windows. Lastly, there is an [Online Giving](#) button on the parish website that gives you the ability to make donations electronically.

Please know that you and your family are in my daily prayers. Stay safe and be well. I look forward to the day beyond our wanderings when we will be worshipping back in our church.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Loyola