



# Saint Gabriel

CATHOLIC PARISH

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March 24, 2020

Dear Parishioners of St. Gabriel

I miss seeing you at daily and weekend Masses. Hopefully you are able to join us for the live-streaming of each Mass.

These are indeed difficult and challenging times for all of us. We have an opportunity this Lent to really take to heart what is most important in our lives: God's immutable (never changing) love for us and our love of God and neighbor.

There are two things I've noticed while watching the daily news. As more and more people are asked to stay home and have limited contact with others, the crime rate seems to have gone down. I don't remember the last time a crime has been reported on the news. Second, with less traffic on the roads and big factories coming to a standstill, there seems to be less air pollution. Mother Earth is able to breathe more freely again (insert 'heel kick' here).

As Governor Evers issues a "safer-at-home" directive, let's pray for the people around the world most affected by this pandemic: the families of those who have died because of this virus; those in hospitals struggling for their lives; and all of us as we strive to stay healthy. We pray for the first responders, doctors, nurses, health professionals, truck drivers, grocery store workers, restaurant workers, farmers, and everyone who is making a difference in this time of need.

This Lent, let's remember what Matthew 22:37 tells us: "Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

Make good choices and stay safe.

Fr. Tim