



# ST. MARY *of the* ANNUNCIATION CATHOLIC PARISH

*Ave Maria Gratia Plena*

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Good afternoon, folks.

I hope you and your families are well. I don't know of anyone in the parish who has caught the virus, but I wonder for how long? And I know a lot of people are getting cabin fever. But we are polishing up our digital skills. And a nice family left me all the ingredients for rice pudding: rice, sugar, condensed milk, and eggs. Anyone have a good recipe?

Pope Francis has announced two important initiatives in the middle of the pandemic: He invites all Christians to pray the Our Father often, but to pray it together at 7 a.m. (noon in Rome) on Wednesday, March 25. He also invites everyone to pray together with him, using digital media, at 1 p.m. (6 p.m. in Rome) on Friday, March 27. He asks us to join him in listening to the Word of God, in petitions, in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and the *Urbi et Orbi* blessing which is given only under the most special conditions.

Please pray the Rosary with us tonight at 9 p.m. from your house. I ask that we continue to pray the rosary, asking our Mother Mary to join us in our prayer to Jesus for protection and healing. We will pray the rosary every night at 9 p.m. as long as then the danger is dire and we cannot be here together physically to celebrate the Eucharist. Friar Mark messed up on something else! He invited folks to join Mary Pettit and Dave Scott for the rosary every evening at 9 p.m. on Zoom. (After you download the Zoom app to phone or computer you can join a video meeting hosted by Mary and Dave, at 8:55 by going to the Zoom home page, clicking on "join" and then entering Mary's meeting identification #: 3401228914.) That was ok. Then he invited others to rosaries with Ruth Watson at 9 on a free conference call. But he gave the wrong dial-in number. The correct dial-in number is (978) 990-5000, and the corresponding access code is 571413.

I was very pleased with the drive-by confessions, but the Archdiocese ask that we not continue them for danger that leaving home would increase danger of contagion for people.

Our filmed reflections on last Sunday's Gospel turned out beautiful, but parishioners have requested that we broadcast the whole Sunday Mass. You can catch the parish Mass this Sunday at 10 in English and 12 in Spanish on FaceBook Live, available on our FB page. (Our parish staff joined together remotely today on Zoom to do a daily Mass to work out the kinks. One of the kinks was that the pastor didn't get vested properly, but we hope he gets his head about him for the Parish Feast Day Mass tomorrow, Wednesday the 25<sup>th</sup> at 7p.m.) Join us!

I intend to send out a weekly update on what I know about how parishioners are doing in this difficult situation and on what we are doing to respond to this rapidly evolving emergency.

*Friar Mark*