



March 17, 2020

Father Fallon and the staff of Prince of Peace Parish and School send our greetings and prayers.

Bishop Baker has suspended the public celebration of Holy Mass through April 3 in the Diocese of Birmingham. The faithful are dispensed from any Mass obligations during this time. A copy of his letter may be found [here](#).

Understandably, as we respond to the Coronavirus, we are focused on our basic material needs. Food, medication and, of course, 2-ply toilet tissue. Although we will likely look back on these times and wonder about the toilet paper part, having our material needs in supply and available is just good sense. Our faith will help us endure these difficult times. It will bring us comfort. But if we are serious about our faith, we must recall our responsibilities as Christians. While we are away from church and from Mass, there are things we can do keep a focus on our faith—in our spiritual lives and in our actions.

We are called to prayer.

For all of us who faithfully attend Mass, it is going to be difficult not to be able to gather to celebrate the Eucharist. At Prince of Peace, we hope to soon begin livestreaming Mass. We will have an announcement out as soon as we finalize arrangements.

In the meantime, we can pray. We can read and reflect on the daily Mass readings. And especially, let us remember to pray for each other. We must pray for our families, our community, our nation, our world. We always pray for the sick; and as we pass through this time in which so many will be seriously ill and will suffer, let us multiply our prayers.

We are called to serve one another.

Part of our daily prayer of gratitude is responding to all we are grateful for, by giving to each other as God has given freely to us. On social media, Sarah Houser, a local mother and former geriatric social worker offers this example.

Go knock on the door of your older neighbors. Anyone over 60. Back up 6 feet from the door and wait for them to answer. Let them know you are there for them, you will be checking in regularly, and you want to meet their needs. Many don't have family in town. My 80-year-old neighbor just said, "This is the worst thing that's ever happened to me except for my divorce." Another older woman, my 77-year-old friend from church paused for a long time and then said, "Thank you. I don't really have anyone I can reliably count on." They are scared. We can help. And our children are watching us to see how we respond.

Let us stay connected. We want to do all we can to support and encourage you during these trying times. Visit our [website](#) for news and to access the online bulletin. If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 205-822-9125 or email church.office@popcatholic.org.

Be assured of our prayers,

Fr. John Fallon
and the staff of Prince of Peace

