

Hello St. James and St. Theresa Families,

I hope you stay safe and healthy as we vigorously fight this deadly Coronavirus. It is not a happy thing for us not to be able shake hands or give hugs to our family and friends, but that is precisely what the Center for Disease Control (CDC) tells us to avoid. We have been under angst as we exercise precautionary measures such as social distancing and limiting our gatherings to 10 or less. It is important that we cooperate with our public health experts and help flatten the Coronavirus contraction spread curve.

I have been thinking of you, missing you and praying for you. How sad that everything has been suspended. It was difficult for me to live-stream the weekend Mass on Saturday, March 21 with a few people like Nick, Melodie, Linda, John and Rene to assist me. I want to thank them for their assistance. It was hard for me to preach since we were not facing each other, but what a blessing of technology we have. It brought our church to your homes when you couldn't go to it. Some of you have sent me your photos of me celebrating the Mass on the TV while you were watching. That moved me. While I offered the Holy Mass for you and you were able to do the Act of Spiritual Communion (i.e. the desire to receive Jesus Christ through the Holy Eucharist), I strangely both "missed" and "experienced" your presence. It was the Eucharistic Lord connecting our hearts through His presence. "Where two or three are gathered in my name there," says Jesus, "there am I in your midst" (Matthew 18:20). I hope the virtual celebration of the Eucharist has made you long even more to go to the church and be able to eat of Him and drink of Him someday. I hope that normalcy happens soon. I am sure He will increase that longing before we gather together in Him again.

Here are some useful resources for you to help your family's spiritual growth at home: [Magnificat](#), [Word Among Us](#), [Formed.Org Reflection & Prayer from the USCCB](#). Please feel free to use these sources with your family and stay tuned in to God's presence at home with your family which has now become a church.

St. James and St. Theresa will be open for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. St. James will be open on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 6:00pm-7:00pm. St. Theresa will be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:00pm-7:00pm. On Sundays both churches will be open from 9:00am-11:00am. Volunteers will carefully monitor CDC guidelines and ordinances of social distancing as well as the 10 or less rule. They will also immediately sanitize the space used by worshippers. ***In light of the events that are occurring daily, should there be a need or ordinance to stop this adoration, we will let you know.***

We are going through uncertain times with our economy. With all the impact of closures of businesses I am very sorry if you have been affected. I pray that your situation improves. For those of you who may not have that pain, I ask for your continued support for financial giving. With the cancelling of Mass, our giving has been greatly reduced. Parish maintenance has to continue, and bills need to be paid regardless of the Coronavirus. I ask that you prayerfully consider mailing out or dropping off your offertory envelopes through the mail slot in the front door of the rectory. It would also help the parish immensely if you could use our online giving by connecting to [We Share online giving](#) through the St. Theresa website. Please help us to help you to carry on our business.

At this time of "social distancing" let's make an attempt at "social connecting" with friends, families and fellow parishioners through texting, calling, emailing, or writing cards. Christ calls us to build "social bonds" at this time of "social disconnect."

Please stay safe and healthy! God love and protect you! I wish you a Happy Easter.
Fr. Loyola