

March 23, 2020

Two parishoners have already reached out to me with notes of sympathy, thinking that I had contracted the virus. So, just to state it again: **I do NOT have the virus.** I am in quarantine out of an abundance of caution because I was exposed to the virus about a week ago. Because the exposure was more than seven days ago and I have NO SYMPTOMS, it is extremely unlikely that I have the virus.

Thank you for your love and concern!

Father Mark, SJ

March 22, 2020

Pastor's Message – March 22, 2020

I'm writing to say "hello" to you all and to let you know that I miss you very much. I'm sure you felt a loss in not being able to attend Mass this weekend and I certainly felt the loss of not being able to preside and preach for you.

I wanted to offer a livestream of the Sunday Mass from the (empty) Holy Name Church, but circumstances did not allow it. A week ago, I was exposed to the virus. Because it has been a whole week and I have not had any symptoms, it is unlikely that I have Covid19. However, at the advice of two doctors and in an abundance of caution, I have placed myself in a self-quarantine. Fr. Stephen has moved out of our residence and into one of the other houses of the Jesuit community. Again, I feel as healthy as a horse and I'm sure that I don't have the virus. But it is best not to take any chances.

Because I am not entering the church during quarantine, I was unable to livestream or video record the Mass. However, I did audio record the homily that I would have preached to you. You can find it where I post every Sunday homily: go to our website, click on "Homilies," then click on "Homilies link."

There are numerous places on the web and on TV to watch a daily Mass. Local television airs Sunday Mass from St. Louis Cathedral. You can watch daily Mass on EWTN. On the internet there are a large number of options. My favorites are:

Bishop Barron's Mass at <https://www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass/>

The pope's Mass at <http://www.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html>

Our own Ignatius Chapel Community Mass at <https://youtu.be/xdivKqkvVq8>

A large number of parishioners have reached out to me offering to deliver groceries, supplies, etc. to anyone who needs assistance. So far, I know of no one who needs this help. If you know of someone who could use a hand at this time, please let me know. On our website you can click on my name and it will allow you to email me.

If there is a need for pastoral counseling, Last Rites, or a funeral, please do not hesitate to call. Call our office (504-865-7430) and leave a message and someone will return your call very shortly.

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us that through blindness, God's works can be made visible (John 9:3). If we continue to turn over our lives to Christ, I am certain that God's works will be made visible through the blind fog we are entering into with the Corona Virus crisis. The whole story of the Passion of Christ boils down to God turning senseless pain and death into Resurrection. Let's not waver in our firm faith in this.

Please take very good care of yourselves. Please be a good citizen and follow the strict guidelines of remaining at home. Please use this time for family time, contemplation, relaxation and simple homey pleasures.

Your brother and servant in Christ,

Father Mark, SJ

March 16, 2020

Due to the Coronavirus (COVID19) crisis, the bishop has mandated that there be **no public Masses** in the church.

For their safety and the safety of the general public, the lay staff of the Parish Center will conduct business via email and phone.

Weddings

Email Liz Broekman, the wedding coordinator, at: weddings@hnjchurch.org

Funerals

Call Susan Branch, the office assistant, at: (504) 865-7430. Leave a message and she will get back to you very soon.

Pastoral counseling, individual confessions, or any other spiritual needs

Email Father Mark Thibodeaux at: mthibodeaux@hnjchurch.org or

call him at: (504) 865-7430 ext. 221

Email Father Stephen Rowntree at frstephenhnj@gmail.com

Call him at: (504) 865-7430 ext. 204

The priests are available to you. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us!

Assistance with groceries or supplies

If you or someone you know is a vulnerable person and are in need of groceries or supplies, we may be able to help. Call (504) 865-7430. Leave a message and someone will get back to you shortly.

All other church services

Call 504.865.7430. Leave a message and someone will get back to you shortly.

A Prayer Amid an Epidemic

Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness.” At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love. Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care. Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another. Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders. Jesus Christ, healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow. Be with those who have died from the virus. May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace.

Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know your peace. Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace. Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks. May they know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth. Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us your peace. Jesus Christ, heal us. (written by Kerry Weber, executive editor of America Magazine)