

13 March 2020

Dear Friends,

Things are still changing rapidly and being updated as we adjust to the present situation. Our parish staff and volunteers have been working extra hard to figure out the best ways to help us all move forward together on our Lenten Pilgrimage. As best we can, let us continue observing the three pillars of Lent: Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving.

PRAYER

First, it's important that everyone understands that Archbishop Etienne has granted a dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass. While it is very painful for all of us to miss Mass in person, under these circumstances, it is not a sin. Please read more from Archbishop at his blog: www.archbishopetienne.com

We can still be connected as the MQP Family through Mass via our parish YouTube Channel (go to www.mqp.org for the link). Recordings of the Mass will be available at any time, and Mass will be streamed live at the following times:

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil @ 5:00 p.m.

Sunday @ 9:00 a.m. & @ 5:00 p.m. (Youth Mass w/ Ignite the Light Band)

Daily Masses

Monday through Saturday @ 9:00 a.m.

(note: Monday Mass will now be at 9:00 a.m.; we have also added Tuesday Mass)

We're offering three different options for Sunday Mass for two reasons. One is so that you all can experience Mass at or near the time you're most used to, and with the music style you enjoy. Two is so that as many of you as possible can experience the Mass live. It's certainly a good thing to watch the recording of the Mass at any time, but there's something powerful about experiencing it live together as a community, even if we're all in different locations.

You'll notice that a few ministers will be present to help celebrate the Mass with me. I so much wish that all of you could be there, but we are restricted to the number of people that can be present at one time. Therefore, a very limited number of essential ministries will be present to help us celebrate Mass in the best way we can under these circumstances (e.g., lector, acolyte, musicians, IT help). Thank you for your understanding.

Please know that the Church is still open! When you are in the Church, please observe all signs requiring safe distances and personal health and hygiene. Individual prayer opportunities are:

Private Prayer

The Church and Chapels are open for private prayer at the following times:

Mon-Fri 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. || Sat-Sun 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday @ 10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. in the Church

Reconciliation

Saturday @ 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. in the Church *(please note the new time and location)*

Please also know that I'm available for appointments for Reconciliation, or if you need to talk about something. Also, I'm available for Anointing of the Sick, as well as bringing Viaticum to someone in need. Please call the Parish Office to get in touch with me.

FASTING

We're experiencing such a harsh and extreme fast by not being able to receive the Eucharist sacramentally. In the readings for Mass on Thursday, March 12th—the first day of this fast—we received the beautiful image of “a tree planted beside the waters” (Jer 17:8). Such a tree is safe, even during times of drought, because it has strong hidden roots that stretch out to the life-giving waters of Jesus Christ. We are experiencing a drought now, and we can depend on all the Eucharists that we have received throughout our lifetime to be our strength. Trust that your deep spiritual roots will continue to keep you tapped into Christ! Furthermore, you can pray this Act of Spiritual Communion often:

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

ALMSGIVING

It's important to continue giving to those in need, especially during this difficult time when many support networks are disrupted. We will be removing the Issaquah Food & Clothing Bank bins from our entrance because the Bank is not able to accept private donations at this time. They still need your help! Please learn how you can help at: www.issaquahfoodbank.org/emergency-needs-list

The suspension of Sunday Masses is likely to also have a negative impact on our parish's weekly income. The ministries that MQP continues to provide, as well as the ongoing daily operations of the parish (payroll, utilities, maintenance, etc.) are dependent on your generous regular giving. If you are already giving to the parish online – thank you! If you would like to learn how you can give online, please visit our parish website at: www.mqp.org/give Also, the parish office will remain open, so you can mail or drop off your envelope or contributions. Thank you for your generosity!

TAKE CARE & MORE PRAYER

Most importantly, please take care of yourselves and your families. Public health officials recommend that all of us take extra precautions and limit our exposure to other people, especially if you: have an underlying health condition or compromised immunity, are pregnant, or are over the age of 60. Please observe these precautions carefully.

As we continue on our Lenten Pilgrimage together, let's also continue to commend ourselves to the protection of our patroness, Our Lady of Seattle: www.archbishopetienne.com/our-lady-of-seattle-pray-for-us

Mary, Queen of Peace, pray for us!

Fr. Chad Green