

March 17, 2020

Dear Parish Family:

Many, Many times over the centuries during times of persecution or isolation the life of the Catholic Church perseveres in the domestic church. When Catholics are unable to gather for mass, families and individuals devote themselves to prayer at home. Whenever the faithful do this in unison, we find a different kind of strength and cohesiveness. A new flavor of resilience given by the Holy Spirit who compels us to see again the immeasurable value of Christ's closeness to us in the sacraments, and awakens us to a deeper accountability for our own response of faith. Will you pray with me?

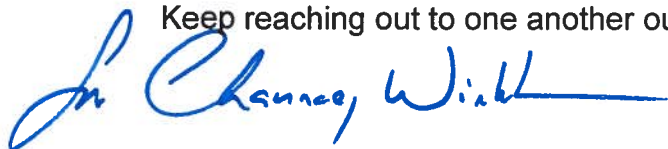
Each day, I continue to celebrate privately each mass intention which has been requested. Know that I am praying for you. While no voices respond to me from a congregation, knowing that you are praying, attending the mass on TV and remaining vigilant in the daily practice of Catholic worship helps me to pray for you. Thank you for that.

Remember that the Church is open daily for family and private prayer. Our Lord is present in the Blessed Sacrament. Come by during the day and feel his closeness to you in the Eucharist. I pray that your hunger for our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar will awaken a more lively sense of his Eucharistic presence in the Church. May you know in your bones that he is here. There is an abundance of Grace for you in this holy hunger.

Find in the bulletin other ways to stay in contact as the staff, clergy and I reach out to you throughout during this time. Be sure your Bible is where you will read it each day. Keep your rosary in your hand, your pocket or on your pillow. See how we can still pray together on Facebook, YouTube, Formed, Flocknote and other tools.

This morning my prayer began slowly because I am still in shock, but persisting I began to beg the Lord, "Show us how to honor you at this time. Teach us how to please you. We are your people. Let us find you and worship you and love you even more as we hunger to return to your temple and your mass. Jesus we love you. Do not let us forget you in these times. Help us to move forward in your plan and not to draw back."

Keep reaching out to one another out of reverence for Christ,



Father Chauncey Winkler
Pastor