

18 March 2020

## Notes on recent developments from Father Joe

I hope that you have taken time to read Bishop Kettler's letter carefully. I intend here to provide just a few points of commentary and also a few review a few reminders in light of the overall situation.

- It is very seldom that the Church permits only private Masses. This is a biologically and medically serious situation. As priests we will continue to offer Masses privately. You can still be a part of it from a far. You can watch it on TV listen to it on Radio. I will continue to fulfill Mass intentions they will be posted on the website so you can offer the Mass with me from afar for your friends and loved ones.
- Desire! In these situations, desire for God is very important. Especially our desire for his Son Jesus in the Eucharist. Many of us are going to. Experience spiritual hunger for the Eucharist during this time. This is good because the Church teaches us that God does not deprive us of sacramental grace, we cannot receive due to things beyond our control. This virus is in many ways beyond our control right now. If we desire to receive the Lord in the Eucharist, he will still provide us the Grace of the Eucharist that we desire even though we can't celebrate it together right now.
- Confessions, Confessions will still be offered. In order to accomplish social distancing and still have your sins forgiven we will do drive up confessions. Details can be found below the Drive-Up Confessions link.
- I will also be providing weekly reflections on the Sunday Readings for your ongoing Spiritual Nourishment they will be found under the Reflections Link.
- Remember we are not completely powerless. We have two great advantages over COVID 19. They are: Our spiritual ability in prayer to take refuge in the Sacred Heart of Jesus for safety and to use our God given self-awareness and our mind to change and create different habits so as to contain and mitigate COVID 19.
- Please read the following article from the Star Tribune below, from yesterday. Please realize that the published numbers may not be reflecting the reality because of the present situation with test kits. This doesn't mean we need to panic it just means we need to heed the instructions to wash our hands, clean our phones, and socially distance ourselves so as to protect each other. This is an exercise of the virtue of humility and of Love for our neighbor. <http://www.startribune.com/minnesota-s-covid-19-case-count-now-60/568864222/>