

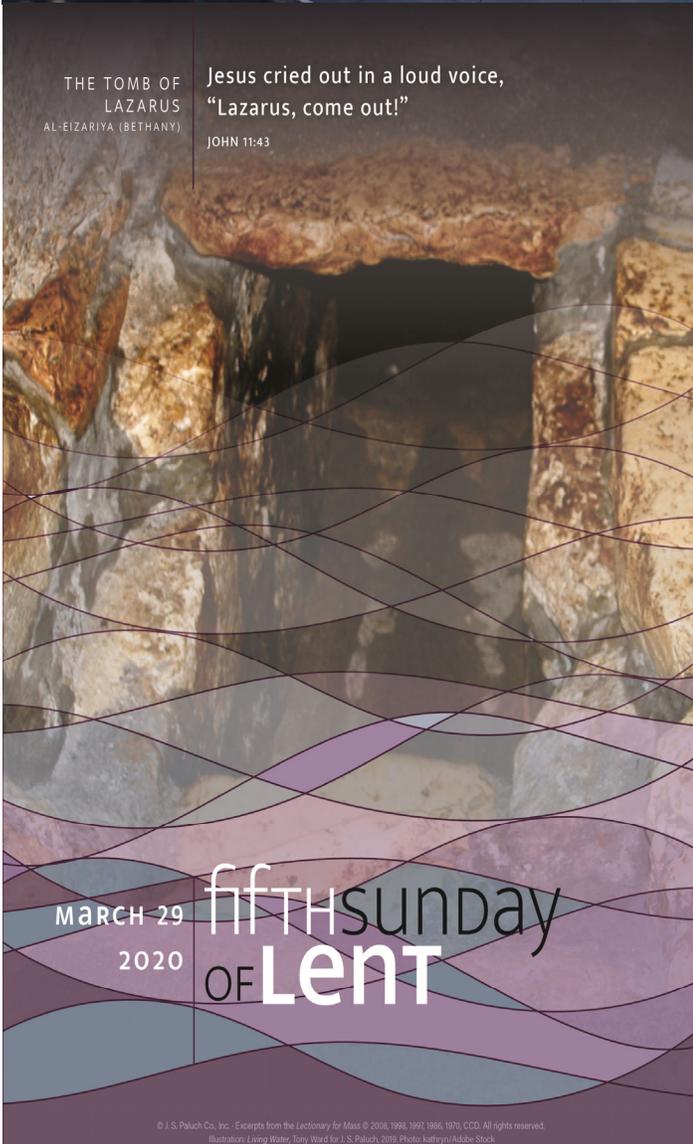


CHURCH OF THE

Good Shepherd

One Flock, One Family, Living and Sharing the Love of Christ

3200 Harbor Street ~ Pittsburg, CA 94565
Phone: 925-432-6404 Fax: 925-432-6748
Email: office@goodshepherdpittsburg.org
www.goodshepherdpittsburg.org
www.facebook.com/goodshepherdpittsburg



**Online Live Stream Mass
Schedule available on our website
and our facebook:**

Monday– Friday: 3:00pm
(With the chaplet of Divine Mercy at 2:45pm)

Saturday Vigil: 5:30pm

**Sunday: 10:00am; 12:00pm;
3:00pm (Spanish)**

**Drive Through Confession in
front of the Church**

Monday—Friday: 6:00pm—7:00pm

**Online Live Stream
Stations of the Cross**

Every Friday at 7:00pm

ANOINTING OF THE SICK HOTLINE 510-259-8706 ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ASSISTANCE LINE 925-432-6404—Ext. 25

My Dearest Flock of the Good Shepherd,

I hope you are all well. Let's continue to hold each other up with our daily prayers for the end of the virus spreading.

I remember a priest who says no preacher in his right mind would preach the gospel on the Sunday following November 22nd, 1963 because people coming to church that day had other things on their minds, mainly the assassination of John F Kennedy. No preacher in his right mind would preach the gospel on a Sunday following 9/11/ 2001 because people coming to church that day with the terrorist attack on their minds; and I would say: no preacher in his right mind would preach on the readings today because people have other things on their minds, the coronavirus. I know your minds now are full of worries and concerns about the covid-19. But together with our Lord, we will go through this tough time.

The coronavirus outbreak happens during Lent. Lent invites us to look at ourselves to know who we are. First of all, before such a contagious virus, we come to know that we are so small, weak and vulnerable in this universe. It takes a small, invisible virus to shake the world upside down. It is just a little tiny virus, but it frightens the whole world. We feel helpless before its deadly contaminations.

It is a time for us to realize our limitations and vulnerabilities. We are truly like a flower as the Psalm 90:6 says: "In the morning it springs up new, but by evening it is dry and withered." When we recognize our limitations, we won't make ourselves gods, but we come to the one true God to worship him. In him, we know our sins to repent. In him, we know our weaknesses to surrender. This is the core message of Lent. Lent reminds us that we are dust and unto dust we shall return; therefore we must repent and believe in the Gospel for our salvation.

It is also a time for each of us to live our lives with responsibilities. No one is an island. We are dependent on each other; therefore we must all live for the common good, building up our community, protecting our environment and lives. This universe is our common home. We are all responsible to protect it and keep it well and healthy. If we come together with this common ground, we will live a good and peaceful life. Sometimes we miss our lives before the virus outbreak. We had peaceful days, but we didn't recognize them. We took them for granted. Truly, the right approach to life is to take one day at a time, and live it to its fullness. It is a time to wake up, to repent, to live with responsibilities with ourselves and with those around us.

Some people have asked me if the virus outbreak is God's punishment to humanity? I would say No. It is not God's wrath over the sin of the world because He is love. Love and evil do not coexist. Therefore, God is not the author of the evil things that we experience in our lives. Evil comes from human freewill. Every year, we face so many natural disasters: earthquakes, floods, and hurricanes. Where do they come from? Many people have put the blame on God. Why is God to be blamed when it is obvious that we, human beings, have caused evils in the world? The Covid-19 could be a chemical product created by some arrogant people to control the world, the universe. In addition, there some people who throw away their lives into evil, lustful lifestyles without any traditional moral norms, such as abortion, drug addition, violence and crime. Some even worship Satan! Aren't these causes of the evil things in the world?

In the midst of negatives caused by many careless people, there are many heroes of faith and humanity who are not afraid to risk their lives for the health and well-being of others. We see here and there doctors and nurses who work day and night to bring cures and comforts for the sick and the dying of the coronavirus. Maybe it is not a time to blame, but it is a time come together to pray, to help, to care, to love, to bond in order to triumph the virus.

In short, how does our faith respond to the Covid-19? First of all, we recognize we are not gods of the universe, that we have limitations and vulnerabilities, that we must return to God what belongs to him so natural order may be in place and peace and harmony resume. Second, we pray that each of us live according to the purpose of our driven lives, living in relationship with others for the common good, that we live up to our well- formed consciences to do good and avoid evil. This is the only way we may transform the world and live in peace.

Blessings

Fr. Thi

Faith Response to Coronavirus

The coronavirus outbreak is stirring up anxiety, confusion, and major inconveniences. It is a situation in which we can easily overreact or underreact. How can our faith tradition guide and comfort us through this troubling time? A good starting point is to remember that the most repeated phrase in the Bible is “Do not be afraid!” or “Have no fear!” God probably sends us this message so frequently because fear is such a big part of human nature. Fear can alert us to dangers in our lives to keep us safe, but fear can also lead us astray, toward selfish responses.

Enough for Everyone

Of course, we see these same dynamics play out in Scripture, where fear leads to hoarding. The most famous story is when the Israelites are in the desert without food (Exodus 16). God rains down manna from heaven but also cautions them to take only what they need for now. They disobey but find that the food they attempt to store away goes bad immediately. The consistent message we hear in the Bible is that we need to trust in God, who will provide enough for everyone. The problems come when people begin to take more than they need. Fear of the coronavirus has caused some to stockpile and hoard unreasonable amounts of hand sanitizer, face masks, and other supplies against the recommendations of leaders. The problem is that this wipes out supplies for those who truly need them the most—health care workers and those most vulnerable to the disease—without really making the buyers safer.

Protect the Vulnerable

Scripture and the social teachings of the church remind us again and again that we—as individuals and a society—must protect and give priority to those who are most vulnerable and at risk. We see this from the laws in the Old Testament that looked out for the poor and the widows, to Jesus’ embrace of people on the margins of society, to the early church’s adamant support of those who had less. The Bible urges us to put those who are most at risk first. In the midst of the coronavirus, the vulnerable take many forms. Most obvious are those who are elderly or have other health conditions that make them most susceptible to illness. Those who are younger may not be concerned about our own health risks, but if we help pass on the virus, it can be a life-or-death situation for others. Others are financially vulnerable and do not have the flexibility to take sick leave that many of us take for granted. That puts them in a difficult situation when they become ill and may have to choose between putting their job at risk and staying home to protect others. Likewise, many parents do not have the flexibility to stay home when school is canceled for their children. The situation is impacting many others, such as small business owners who may already be on shaky financial ground.

A Spirit of Sacrifice

This health crisis is challenging many of us to make sacrifices in our lives. Some are huge, such as those made by exhausted health care workers around the world, desperately trying to keep patients alive (while avoiding the illness themselves). Other sacrifices fall more in the category of inconveniences. It is inconvenient when events are canceled, schools close, and travel is limited. It is inconvenient to wash our hands intentionally and regularly. But this kind of sacrifice is at the very center of our faith. Every time we gather around the Lord’s Table, we celebrate the powerful way Christ showed us how to love others. He sacrificed everything in self-giving love for us, and he invited us to do the same. In turn, we die to ourselves—through inconveniences and more—in order to love those around us. Truly loving others will always cost us something. Actions that may not entirely make sense to us can have huge effects. Scientists point to the 1918 flu when St. Louis proactively and aggressively closed its schools to prevent infections. Death rates in the city were about one third those in Pittsburgh, which was much slower to close its schools. Thousands of lives were saved. We may grumble about or resist changing our habits, especially if it’s unclear what’s in it for us. But we need to remember that many of these actions are more about protecting others. Perhaps the invitation amidst this crisis is to embrace the inconveniences fully, and then move beyond them to seek out the best ways to serve those who are most in need (*continued next page*)....

Loving Our Neighbor

Community is essential to us as Christians. We are the Body of Christ, and we know that when two or more gather in Jesus' name, he is present with us. So it may be a bit harder for us to handle the "social distancing" happening in many communities. Our call to community is not only in the context of our church but also in our neighborhood community. How do we literally love our neighbor? How can we be witnesses on our streets? One way is to regularly check in on your neighbors who may be vulnerable and isolated. Offer to deliver groceries or other items for them or to run other errands so they won't have to risk infection by leaving their home. Be a positive, calming influence in any online neighborhood communities. Don't spread rumors or hysteria, but find ways to support each other through the crisis.

Living the Virtues

Ultimately, as with life in general, we are called to live out the four cardinal virtues: • Prudence - Carefully discern the best course of action, not just for ourselves, but for the good of all. Ask: What action does God want me to take? • Justice - Seek fairness for everyone, especially those who need it most. Ask: Who is not getting the help that they need? • Temperance - Find a healthy balance between self care and care for others. Ask: Do I err toward selfishness or an unhealthy co-dependence? • Fortitude - Persevere in times of trial and difficulty. Ask: Do I have the courage to do the right thing even when the going gets tough?

Copyright ©2020 Paul Canavese. Published by The Pastoral Center / PastoralCenter.com. Permission is granted to reproduce this resource freely.

What You Can Do

- **Stop the spread.** Even if you are not particularly concerned about the risk to yourself or your own family, these tactics will protect *others* who may be more vulnerable. Many of us will carry the virus before having any symptoms (and may never develop any). • **Wash your hands well** for at least 20 seconds with soap and water. Sing the refrain to Michael Joncas' song "On Eagle's Wings" ("And he will raise you up...") while you wash.
- **Avoid touching your face.** • **Cough or sneeze into your elbow** or a tissue.
- **Follow the guidance of local officials.** • **Stay home if you become ill.** • **Don't take what you don't need.** Hoarding worsens the situation, and can lead to more infections and more impacts for the most vulnerable. • **Leave the masks to others.** Masks only make sense for health care workers and those who are infected. They are not guaranteed to prevent transmission anyway. • **Do not overbuy supplies.** Retailers are being wiped out of disinfectants and other supplies, leaving some who most need them without. Be prepared, but be thoughtful and reasonable.
- **Advocate for the vulnerable and targeted.** • **Have compassion for those most at risk.** Stand up for those who need the most help and make sure they are being cared for, without judgment. • **Fight racism.** Discrimination against those with Asian background only hurts the situation. • **Proactively love your neighbor!** • **Check in on isolated or vulnerable neighbors** and offer to help with specific tasks such as shopping, child or pet care, cleaning, etc. • **If you are in a position of power,** use that power for the good of all. Allow workers to work from home or take time off, limit large gatherings, follow government guidance, etc.
- **Thank those on the front lines** who are protecting us, such as health care workers, police, firefighters. Be gentle and kind with them.
- **Pray** for all those affected by the crisis.

We celebrate a
Children's Mass on the 1st Sunday of each month at 10 am and a Youth Mass at 10 am
on the 3rd Sunday of each month.
Please join us when our shelter in place is over.

SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO CONSIDER

With mass attendance down due to the Coronavirus, we ask that you consider signing up for Electronic Fund Transfer so that we can keep the parish up and running during this difficult time. EFT is a safe, convenient way to give to the parish even when you are unable to attend mass or you are away on vacation. Simply fill out the bottom portion of this page and return it to the parish office at 3200 Harbor St., Pittsburg, CA 94565 or a form can be mailed or emailed to you. You can also visit our web site at www.goodshepherdpittsburg.org and conveniently donate through the DONATION NOW BUTTON. If neither of these manners of giving suit you, you can mail in your contributions any time you will not be present at mass or place them through the mail slot in the parish office door. Thank you for helping keep our parish afloat during this very difficult time.

**Electronic Funds Transfer
The Easy Way to Tithe!**

Church of the Good Shepherd offers a FREE tithing option more convenient for many of our members –Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) Program.
The program has been a great success since we started it several years ago.

- You Tithe No More Than You Normally Do.
- You Control How You Tithe.
- You Choose A Tithe Frequency: Weekly, Semi-Monthly, Or Monthly.
- You Choose When You Want Your Account Debited.

ENROLLMENT IN ELECTRONIC DONATION TRANSFER FOR SUNDAY GIVING

Please enter the amount you wish to give and how often:

\$ _____ Weekly (Transferred every Monday)

\$ _____ Semimonthly (Transferred on 1st & 14th)

\$ _____ Monthly (Transferred on 1st or 15th—indicate preference)

\$ _____ I wish to give this amount electronically weekly for 2nd collections using the same account information.

CREDIT CARD OPTION

Name _____ Credit Card Type _____
Address _____ Credit Card # _____
Phone _____ Expiration Date _____

CHECKING ACCOUNT OPTION

Simply attach voided check

I authorize Good Shepherd Church to process entries from my credit card or checking account as noted above. This authority shall remain in effect until I give reasonable notification to terminate this authorization.

COVID-19

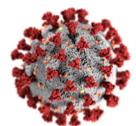
In accordance with the Contra Costa Health Services order dated March 16, 2020, the parish will be physically closed until April 7th.

We are operating the office virtually through the telephone (925-432-6404), our web site www.goodshepherdpittsburg.org, or email at

office@goodshepherdpittsburg.org

All masses are suspended, but the chapel is available 24 hours a day to provide a place of prayer and solace. We will be providing more information on the celebration of sacraments soon.

We appreciate your understanding in this matter and praying for your health and safety and a swift end to this crisis.



Mi Querido Rebaño del Buen Pastor,

Espero que estén bien. Sigamos aferrándonos a nuestras oraciones diarias por el fin de la propagación del virus.

Recuerdo a un sacerdote que dijo que ningún predicador en su sano juicio predicaría el Evangelio el Domingo siguiente al 22 de Noviembre de 1963 porque la gente que venía a la iglesia ese día tenía otras cosas en sus mentes, principalmente el asesinato de John F. Kennedy. Ningún predicador en su sano juicio predicaría el Evangelio un Domingo después de Septiembre, 11, 2001 porque las personas que venían a la iglesia ese día con el ataque terrorista en sus mentes; y yo diría: ningún predicador en su sano juicio predicaría las lecturas de hoy porque la gente tiene otras cosas en sus mentes, el coronavirus. Sé que sus mentes ahora están llenas de preocupaciones y preocupaciones sobre el Covid-19. Pero junto con nuestro Señor, pasaremos por este momento difícil.

El brote de coronavirus ocurre durante la Cuaresma. La Cuaresma nos invita a mirarnos a nosotros mismos para saber quiénes somos. En primer lugar, antes de un virus tan contagioso, llegamos a saber que somos tan pequeños, débiles y vulnerables en este universo. Se necesita un pequeño virus invisible para sacudir al mundo y ponerlo al revés. Es sólo un pequeño virus diminuto, pero asusta al mundo entero. Nos sentimos indefensos ante sus contaminaciones mortales.

Es un momento para que nos demos cuenta de nuestras limitaciones y vulnerabilidades. Somos verdaderamente como una flor como dice el Salmo 90:6: "Por la mañana brota nueva, pero por la noche está seca y marchita." Cuando reconocemos nuestras limitaciones, no nos haremos dioses, sino que llegamos al único Dios verdadero para adorarlo. En él, sabemos que nuestros pecados serán perdonados. En él, sabemos poner nuestras debilidades y rendirnos. Este es el mensaje central de la Cuaresma. La Cuaresma nos recuerda que somos polvo y polvo volveremos a hacer; por lo tanto, debemos arrepentirnos y creer en el Evangelio para nuestra salvación.

También es un momento para que cada uno de nosotros viva nuestra vida con responsabilidades. Nadie es una isla. Dependemos el uno del otro; por lo tanto, todos debemos vivir por el bien común, construyendo nuestra comunidad, protegiendo nuestro medio ambiente y vida. Este universo es nuestro hogar común. Todos somos responsables de protegerlo y mantenerlo bien y saludable. Si nos unimos a este terreno común, viviremos una vida buena y pacífica. A veces nos hace falta la vida antes del brote del virus. Tuvimos días de paz, pero no los reconocimos. No los aprovechamos. Verdaderamente, el enfoque correcto de la vida es tomar un día a la vez, y vivirla a su plenitud. Es un momento para despertar, arrepentirse, vivir con responsabilidades con nosotros mismos y con los que nos rodean.

¿Algunas personas me han preguntado si el brote del virus es el castigo de Dios a la humanidad? Yo diría que no. No es la ira de Dios sobre el pecado del mundo porque El es amor. El amor y el mal no coexisten. Por lo tanto, Dios no es el autor de las cosas malas que experimentamos en nuestra vida. El mal viene del libre albedrío humano. Cada año, nos enfrentamos a tantos desastres naturales: terremotos, inundaciones y huracanes. ¿De dónde vienen? Muchas personas han culpado a Dios. ¿Por qué se debe culpar a Dios cuando es obvio que nosotros, los seres humanos, hemos causado males en el mundo? El Covid-19 podría ser un producto químico creado por algunas personas arrogantes para controlar el mundo, el universo. Además, hay algunas personas que tiran sus vidas a estilos de vida malvados y lujuriosos sin ninguna norma moral tradicional, como el aborto, la adicción a las drogas, la violencia y el crimen. ¡Algunos incluso adoran a Satanás! ¿No son estas causas de las cosas malas del mundo?

Entre la neblina de los negativos causados por muchas personas descuidadas, hay muchos héroes de fe y la humanidad en sí que no tienen miedo de arriesgar sus vidas por la salud y el bienestar de los demás. Vemos aquí y allá médicos y enfermeras que trabajan días y noches para traer curas y comodidades para los enfermos y los moribundos del coronavirus. Tal vez no sea un momento para culpar, pero es un momento de unirnos para orar, para ayudar, para cuidar, para amar, para que juntos triunfar contra el virus.

En resumen, ¿cómo responde nuestra fe al Covid-19? En primer lugar, reconocemos que no somos dioses del universo, que tenemos limitaciones y vulnerabilidades, que debemos devolver a Dios lo que le pertenece para que el orden natural pueda estar en su lugar y que la paz y la armonía se reanuden entre sí. Segundo, oramos para que cada uno de nosotros vivamos de acuerdo con el propósito de nuestra vida impulsada, viviendo en buena relación con los demás por el bien común, para que estemos a la vanguardia para hacer el bien y evitar el mal. Esta es la única manera en que podemos transformar el mundo y vivir en paz.

Bendiciones

Padre Thi

ESTUDIO BIBLICO EN ESPAÑOL

Quieres aprender mas sobre la Fe? Quieres fortalecerte en ella y vivirla plenamente?

Apartir de *Agosto, cada tercer y cuarto Lunes de cada mes, de 7-9pm* en el salón pequeño de la oficina. Ven te esperamos!

GRUPO DE ORACIÓN UNCIÓN DE LO ALTO- Viernes 7-9pm en las oficinas parroquiales y **Sábados de 10:30 am-11:30 am** en la Capilla con el Santísimo. Para mas información por favor contactar a **Laura y Alvin Alvarez 925-765-0231**. Si tienes talentos musicales y tocas la guitarra ven acompañalos.

GRUPO ESCUELA DE LA CRUZ Cristo te espera, ven a descubrir su amor divino y su misericordia! te esperamos los **Miercoles 7:30pm-8:30pm (Oficina Parroquial)**. Para más información, por favor comunícate con **Romeo Gonzalez 925-565-9320**.

EL GRUPO DE LA DIVINA MISERICORDIA -

Miercoles 6pm-7pm en la Capilla y

Jueves 6:30pm-8:30pm, en el salón de la oficina. Para más Información, por favor comuníquese con **Lidia Castañeda 925-705-3045**.

LA VIRGEN PEREGRINA - Las Familias que desean inscribirse después de la Misa para llevarse a la Virgen Peregrina a sus casas, por favor comunicarse con **Milton Pérez, Rubén y Silvana Gutierrez al 925-439-7640**.

CUARESMA-Tiempo de Oración y Reflexión Los invitamos a participar en las próximas fechas:
Jueves, 5 de Marzo(Parroquia) 7:00pm a 9:00pm

ATENCIÓN COMUNIDAD HISPANA

Si algún miembro de la comunidad Hispana **esta interesado en recibir visitas a domicilio o comunión a los enfermos**, por favor comuníquense a la oficina parroquial para hablar con Carmen y establecer este servicio para nuestros miembros enfermos y confinados a casa.

Reflexión de Cuaresma: "Encontrándome con Cristo"

Encontrándome con Cristo, es un proceso de formación espiritual intenso para la Cuaresma buscando una relación personal con Jesús. Esta formación está basada en:

"Si el Ministerio no fluye desde un encuentro personal y de una relación continua con el Señor, entonces, no importa cómo lo ha logrado, ese Ministerio carece de alma vital y fuente necesaria para dar frutos duraderos"

Inscríbese con Carmen en las oficinas o al final de cada Misa con alguno de los facilitadores.

ATENCIÓN MONAGUILLOS

Si les gustaria participar en la sagrada Misa y aprender aún más de su FE, comuníquense con **Rebeca & Bulmaro al 925-286-2276**, ellos los guiarán y enseñarán el bello ministerio de ser monaguillos.

- ♦ **Las cartas del 2019 de donación de impuestos están disponibles llamando a la oficina parroquial al 925-432-6404. por favor, indique si desea recogerla o que se la enviemos por correo.**
- ♦ **¡NUEVO PARA EL 2020!**
Misas trimestrales para la "Unción de los Enfermos" tendrán lugar los Sábados a las 10am, comenzando Mayo 2, Agosto 1o y Noviembre 7

Mass Intentions

March 30-April 5

3pm Daily Livestream on the Good ShepherdFacebook Page

Mon James & Rose Florentino † #
 Tue Leonard D'Agostino † *
 Wed Capupus Family
 Thu John Vitalie †
 Fri Stephen Esposito † & Capupus Family
 Sat Capupus Family
 Holy Souls in Purgatory † & Members of FOSS

Weekend Masses Livestreamed on our Facebook Page at:

Sat 5:30 pm Sancho Alesna, Sr. †
 Sun 10 am Deceased Members of the Passion Cast & Crew: Stephen Day, Rosie Coan, Richard Mills, Joe Hatch, Jonathan Rodriguez & Dale Eugene Jr. †
 12 pm Melencio, Felisa & Troy Castillo †
 3:00pm FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH #
 *=Fr. Thi, #=Fr. Christopher, ^=Fr. Helmut

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Please help contribute to the smooth operation and good services of our parish, especially during this most difficult time. You can give your donations to any staff member or place in the mail slot in the ministry building door.

We appreciate your generosity and for making Good Shepherd a part of your family. Fr. Thi

Prayer for a Pandemic

May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips remember those who have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country, let us choose love.

During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other, let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors.

Amen.

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

**ISAIAH 50:4-7, PHILIPPIANS 2:6-11,
 MATTHEW 26:14-27:66**

NEXT SUNDAY'S 2ND COLLECTION

EASTER FLOWERS

Praise • Sacrifice • Good Works

2020 Lenten and Easter Celebrations

(Dates & Times Subject to Change)

Drive through Confession During Lent

Monday—Friday: 6-7pm

Drive your car to the church drive way, roll down the window, our priest will approach to your car to hear your confessions.

Easter Triduum

April 9-Holy Thursday

8:00am Morning Prayer/Liturgy of the Hours

7:00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper and Washing of Feet followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until Mid-Night.

April 10-Good Friday

8am Morning Prayer/Liturgy of the Hours

12pm Liturgy with Veneration of the Cross

3:00pm Liturgy with Veneration of the Cross (Spanish) 6:00pm Liturgy with Veneration of the Cross

EASTER VIGIL/ EASTER

April 11-Holy Saturday

8:00am—Morning Prayer/ Liturgy of the Hours

8:30am– Rehearsal for Easter Vigil

8:00pm Easter Vigil

EASTER

April 12-Easter Sunday

7:00am Mass

8:30am Mass

10am Mass & Easter Egg Hunt for children at the Prayer Park

12:00pm Mass & Easter Egg Hunt for children ~ Prayer Park

3:00pm Mass – Spanish Easter Egg Hunt for Children Prayer

April 18 & 19- Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration

Saturday, April 18 talk by Christine Watkins after the 5:30 pm mass in the church

Sunday, April 19 talk by Fr. James Blount 2-4 pm in the parish hall
Healing Mass to follow at 4:30 pm in the church.