



St. Andrew The Apostle Roman Catholic Church

Office of the Pastor

Friday March 20, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

Due to the fact that Mayor Cantrell has just ordered the citizens of New Orleans to remain at home, **I have no choice but to close St. Andrew's campus, this includes the church.** The campus will remain closed until the Mayor lifts this restriction.

As faith-filled Catholics, I challenge us all to remain positive as our God never lets us down. This time of challenge may be a reminder from God Himself to trust in Him alone. In the Old Testament, God continually called the Israelites back from their sins. Time and again they abandoned Him and turned to earthly pleasures and treasures. As a merciful God, He relinquished their punishments as soon as they turned back to Him and recognized Him as the One God. Let us all join together as brothers and sisters in prayer and repent of our sins and those of the world. Let us trust completely and solely in God, and He may send the Archangel Gabriel and His angels quickly to hold back this pestilence.

This morning, I did some grocery shopping. Most often, when people see us priests in public, they (sometimes) say hello. Today, just about every single person I passed in the aisles said hello and many requested a prayer for their protection. It was heart-breaking! They were all gripped with fear. So many people are terrified. I beg us all not to lose hope, but to put our faith in action. There is nothing God can't do. May I suggest we all consider some of the following for starters:

1. Pray daily as a family and bring your family to confession as soon as the restriction is lifted
2. Share meals as a family and communicate with one another
3. Check on your neighbor and their needs
4. Offer to grocery shop for the elderly and vulnerable or pick up their medicine
5. Be conscious of the "needy". Many are hungry, homeless, and scared
6. Pray with your neighbor, the elderly, vulnerable and the poor, and be a source of comfort and faith
7. Pray for the church and your priests
8. Pray for the sins of our world

These are just a few suggestions. There are many things we can all do to assist one another in getting through this crisis. Let's all be creative. Let's all be Catholics in action.

Remember, I'm offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for you and your families each day. I look forward to the day some when, once again, we can all celebrate the Holy Eucharist together. May Our Lady, the Help of Christians and St. Benedict protect us all. +

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. John Talamo,

Pastor/Dean

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"Da Mihi Animas Caetera Tolle"

St. John Bosco