

Dear Parishioners,

On behalf of Father Bob and I, we want you to know that all of us are feeling the anxiety of COVID-19, or, the coronavirus. The reason for all of the government and Church regulations in this moment is to protect our people, especially the most vulnerable. Be assured of our love and prayers for each one of you. Let us all do our part in making sure this virus does not spread. Wash your hands, stay away from large crowds, and if you cough, please cough into the fold of your arm. Most of all, let us continue to pray for each other and for all the people affected by this virus.

Throughout the history of the Church, she has always been the center of people's lives. She is there in the beginning of our life. She sustains us through sacraments during the course of our life. It feels strange now, in the situation we find ourselves in, that we cannot fully

participate in the beauty of the Church; in all that She has to offer to us, together as a Parish family. As many of you have already heard, Archbishop Perez has announced that all public Masses in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia are suspended until further notice. Mass will be said privately by Father Bob and I each day and all of the Mass intentions will be honored.

Although you are not able to physically come to Mass and receive our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, or participate in the many ministries we have here at Saint Helena, there still is the opportunity to keep the Church at the center of our lives through our livestreaming capabilities. There is a mysterious beauty in the ability to watch, pray, and participate together at home with your families in the various resources we will be providing during this trying time. Please know that other families will be doing the same, and this will be the way we keep the Parish Family of Saint Helena together in prayer.

Some of the opportunities that are available now are:

- 1) Daily Mass to be offered via the Chapel livestream at 10:00 AM
- 2) A Saturday evening Vigil Mass to be offered via the Church livestream at 4:00 PM
- 3) A Sunday Mass to be offered via the Church livestream at 10:00 AM
- 4) Confessions will still be heard at 2:00 PM in the Church

- 5) The Chapel will be open daily for private prayer before the Blessed Sacrament from 11:00 AM until 7:30 PM Monday to Friday; and Saturday and Sunday from 11:00 AM until 5:00 PM

Please do not come to visit the Chapel if you are not feeling well.

- 6) We have numerous prayers and devotions available on our website,

including the Stations of the Cross, Divine Mercy Chaplet, the Rosary, and others.

- 7) The Parish office is closed to the public, but staff members will be here to answer your calls Monday to Friday, from 9AM to 5PM.

In this time when everyone is making sacrifices, and being affected economically from the environment created by the regulations we must all rightfully adhere to, it seems strange to point out that without Sunday Mass, there is no Sunday collection, which is vital for the running of our Parish. All of you have been so generous in supporting your Parish and building it up into the wonderful worship community that it is. This Parish IS the center of our lives. It is important for all of us to continue to support Saint Helena. We kindly ask you to please either sign up to give your offering through Parish Giving or mail in your offering donations to the

Parish Office. Costs and bills still continue even though Mass is suspended.

We are all working hard to navigate this difficult time and to be as attentive as possible to the spiritual, pastoral, and charitable needs of our Parish family. Please know that our website is continuously updated with information as this situation unfolds.

We invoke the intercession of our Blessed Mother.....