



March 17, 2020

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

First of all, may the peace of God reign in your heart and protect you and your loved ones from fears and anxieties of the COVID-19 outbreak.

In light of the recent declaration of the State of Emergency concerning COVID-19 and the serious need for the shepherd to protect the well-being of the faithful and the community, Archbishop Alexander K. Sample has sent a letter of his statement and decree regarding the temporary suspension of public masses to his flock yesterday afternoon (please see attached).

Abiding by the laws that are enacted by the State of Oregon, and in accordance with the decrees, and directives of Archbishop Sample, all public Masses, all pastoral programs and activities of our Parish are temporarily canceled in the next four weeks beginning today, Tuesday, March 17, 2020. At the same time, our Archbishop is dispensing all of the faithful from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation for the same period of time. Regardless, all the parochial vicars and I will continue to perform the following pastoral ministry:

1. **Sacrament of Reconciliation is extended from Monday to Friday afternoon, starting at 5:00pm**
  - The number of people waiting to enter the Confessional in the parish hall shall be no more than 8 (plus two priests is 10).
  - If there are more than 10 people waiting for confession, kindly stay in your car and wait for the signal to enter the parish hall.
2. **Eucharistic Celebration will be live-streamed on the following days:**
  - Monday to Friday: @ 12:00PM (Noon time)
  - Saturday: @ 6:00 PM
  - Sunday: @ 9:00 AM
  - Holy Thursday & Good Friday: @ 7:00PM
  - Easter Vigil: @ 8:30PM
3. **Anointing of the Sick: dial 971-506 - 6019** (*Due to an excessive amount of scam calls, we hesitate to answer the call right away; therefore, please leave a message and we will get back with you as soon as possible*).

Indeed, this is an incident that neither the Holy Father nor the Bishops have ever imagined would happen. We are obliged to withdraw from our parish community. All language, religious and catechumen's education, Eucharistic Youth Group and parish activities must be suspended. In particular, the work of fundraising and repairing of the New Hope facility will be interrupted,

and this will be challenging, but I firmly believe that *in God's divine providence, nothing is insubstantial, nothing is bewildered...* With faith, hope and trust, together, we will overcome all difficulties and challenges that are ahead of us.

In the coming weeks (with the hope that the Liturgy of the Eucharist will be celebrated before Holy Week) you are dispensed from the obligation to attend Holy Mass; however, I urge you to do the following:

1. The dinner table is a sacred place for a family to come together, so please do your best to have family mealtime. Refrain from watching TV, surfing on the internet, or playing games. Use these days/times wisely to talk, converse and share your stories with one another.
2. Pray together as a family, if possible before going to bed. Pray the Holy Rosary, that, through the intercession of St. Joseph, if it be God's will, that this epidemic end quickly.
3. Fast and abstain, offer daily sacrifices with your prayer for the sick and the aged, for all those affected by the virus, those quarantined, and for the medical and first responders who minister to them. Pray for the doctors, nurses and health workers, so that they can be healthy and courageous when serving their patients.
4. Let us also pray for the following intentions:
  - For those who are unemployed, those whose weekly earnings are based on commission and tips.
  - For business owners mandated to close their businesses.
  - For people who are living on limited income.
5. In union with the Parish family, attend the Holy Mass through live stream (schedule is listed above)

Last but not least, please remember to pray for the fundraising, as well as for the renovation of our new facility, that it continue smoothly, peacefully and effectively.

Our God is powerful; He is a merciful and compassionate Father. He is in control of everything, and He never abandons His children in distress. Therefore, more than ever, we must pray, fast, abstain, and show the same repentance as King David did in the past.

May God, through the intercession of St. Joseph and Our Lady of Lavang, grant us good health, peace, and may God have mercy and free us from the calamities caused by the COVID-19 outbreak.

In Christ,



Rev. Ansgar Pham, SDD  
Pastor