



SAINT JOHN FISHER PARISH

April 15, 2020

Dear Parishioners:

We are in the midst of the coronavirus. April is supposed to be the critical month. While I can't foresee the outcome, I am hoping that with all cooperating in social distancing we will meet the surge and be able to respond with enough equipment, beds, and personnel to meet the challenge. We should all be grateful to the personnel who are on the front lines of this battle.

Holy Week was like no other. I look forward to the annual Chrism Mass where Archbishop Gomez gathers with his priests around the altar of the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels. We recommit ourselves to service to our people. All priests celebrating their golden anniversary are recognized. The oils are blessed that will be used in all parishes throughout the Archdiocese. This was not to happen this year. Instead, on Monday of Holy Week, I watched a live stream of the Chrism Mass from the safety of my rectory. I'm sure that there were hundreds of thousands of the faithful throughout the Archdiocese doing the same.

Meanwhile at St. John Fisher, I have been concelebrating Mass at 8:00 am each day in a locked church with Father Francis Aguilar and Father Bernard Kalu since March 17. The parish began live-streaming Mass the next day and has been doing it ever since. We have committed ourselves to this each day as long as the social distancing is in play and we cannot celebrate Mass publicly. The parish had already been live-streaming the 9:00 am Sunday Mass for several years prior to this. But the number of viewers spiked from a few hundred to a few thousand.

The personnel in the parish are doing their part to provide long-distance communication and ministries via the Internet and other means of social communication. Zoom has been a part of my vocabulary as I utilize that application for many of our meetings. The children in the school have continued their learning through creative activities of their teachers via the Internet. I encourage you to utilize our website for information: www.sjf.org.

Meanwhile, let's pray for a kinder May and a gradual abatement of this terrible scourge that has beset us.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. David A. Sork
Pastor