

# St. Thomas Catholic Church

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(206) 242-5501



March 28, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we prepare to enter our 5th week of Lent, we are all doing our best to prevent the further spread of the COVID-19 virus by following the Stay At Home Order issued by Governor Inslee on Monday. It is heartbreaking to see how much suffering and death has entered people's lives through this pandemic. At the same time it has been very inspiring to hear and see all of the stories of people thinking of others and trying to reach out and show compassion. I have been praying for all of us that the Holy Spirit will protect our hearts from fear and help us to show forth the power of our faith.

This also has been a time to pray for the gift of creativity to see what we can do to stay connected as a parish community. I am grateful for the gift of technology and the internet which has allowed us to keep in touch. I personally have been spending a lot of time with webinars and conference calls to get the latest information and policies from the Archdiocese. These events have been very helpful. However, with the changing conditions, most of them are getting constant updates.

Our staff had a meeting (teleconference) on Wednesday to discuss what we can do to continue to serve the needs of our parish community while still respecting the need to stay at home and follow the guidelines. This meeting required the staff to follow up and reach out to members and volunteers within the parish to put together a plan. We have a follow up teleconference on Monday morning to discuss our efforts and finalize the plan. Once everything is in place, I will make an official announcement about some of the things we can do as a parish community to continue to pray and support one another.

Pope Francis offered a beautiful message and blessing on Friday. You can watch the video and read his message by going to the [Vatican News website](#) or the [Vatican website](#).

We will be streaming the Mass on the next two Sundays at 9AM from the church on our [Facebook](#) page. The guidelines from the Archdiocese only allow those directly helping with the Mass to be there. After the Mass is over, I will upload the video to the parish website as well. The latest updates will always be posted on our parish website.

If you have any questions, concerns, or know of any parishioner who needs help, please [email](#) or call me at (206) 242-5501 ext.103.

May the Lord continue to guide us in the days ahead and thank you so much for all of your prayers and support as we journey together.

Sincerely in Christ,



Fr. James Northrop  
Pastor



**H**oly Mary, we come before you as spiritual children in great need, seeking your intercession, and asking that your mantle of love surround us to console, protect, and lead us to your son Jesus.

We entrust all of God's family, especially the church in Western Washington, into your immaculate hands. With your son Jesus' gentle power you can *undo any knot* in our church, and in the lives of believers who entrust themselves to your care.

Today I especially entrust to you *[mention request/ Coronavirus here]*, and I ask that — through your intercession, and that of St. James, our guardian angels, and the faithful in our archdiocese — we may be free from every spiritual and temporal ill, and be safely led to encounter your son's merciful, sacred heart.

Our Lady of Seattle, Undoer of Knots, pray for us!