

St. Thomas Catholic Church

4415 S. 140th Street
Tukwila, WA 98168
(206) 242-5501



March 13, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As you are probably aware, on Wednesday of this week, Archbishop Etienne made the decision to stop all public celebrations of the Eucharist. This was not an easy decision. It was prayerfully discerned in consultation with public officials out of an abundance of concern for the health and well-being of everyone within the Archdiocese of Seattle. [Here](#) is the video from Archbishop Etienne.

As Catholics, faithful celebration of the Eucharist is central to who we are as members of the Body of Christ. We have been faithfully celebrating this living memorial of the Lord's death and resurrection since the Last Supper. We should feel a tremendous sense of sadness that at this time we cannot gather as members of the Body of Christ to celebrate Mass. At the same time the Lord invites us to recognize that His grace, love, and support are still available to us in many ways.

I am still available to visit, anoint, and bring Holy Communion to those who are sick. Please call the parish office (206) 242-5501 ext. 103 or [email](#) me to arrange visits to the sick.

While all parish actives are suspended until further notice, the staff will still be available to answer phone calls and emails.

The Church will be open during the day during normal office hours for people to stop in and spend time in prayer. Please observe the health guidelines from the King County Health Department as far as safe practices and don't come if you are sick or showing any symptoms. The link to the King County Health Department guidelines can be found [here](#).

The Mass is broadcast everyday on EWTN at 5AM (live), 9AM, and 4PM. I will be streaming the Sunday Mass from my chapel in the rectory on Sundays at 9AM.

There are great resources to help us stay strong and focused on the Lord during this time through the internet. The Archdiocese has published this [guide](#) and don't forget there is excellent programming and movies on FORMED which is available to you for free. You just need to register to use it. You can do that at this [link](#). We are also very blessed to have Sacred Heart Radio at 1050 AM. KLOVE at 104.3 FM is a great radio station to enjoy Christian music.

I have signed our parish up for FlockNotes which will enable instant communication with anyone who signs up. We can use this service for announcements and to stay in better communication as a parish. There is no cost to sign up and [this](#) is our parish link. The parish [website](#) is also updated regularly.

The main thing we must be aware of is that the enemy's greatest weapon against us is fear. We have to be sensible and do our best to avoid spreading this virus, but we are people of faith and should never allow our lives to be governed by a spirit of fear.

At the Bible Study on Wednesday evening (which is suspended until further notice) someone mentioned how easily we can take the Eucharist for granted and that maybe this time of not being able to celebrate Mass together will cause a greater hunger and desire to understand and live the Eucharist more faithfully. St. Paul reminds us that "We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28). God will take care of us and we will get through this difficult time.

Please remember to pray for those who are sick with the coronavirus, as well as all of our public officials, healthcare workers, police, firefighters, and first responders who are very busy trying to keep us all safe. Also, in light of the school cancellations, a heavy burden is now upon parents trying to work and make ends meet while still trying to find childcare. Let us be generous and helpful in doing what we can to help one another during this time.

Archbishop Etienne has asked us to pray for the intercession of Mary during this time. The prayer is posted below.

May the Lord bless us all and shine through our words and actions in the days ahead.

Sincerely in Christ,



Fr. James Northrop
Pastor



Our Lady of Seattle, St. James Cathedral/Priory, Archbishop Paul D. Etienne

Holy 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!