



St Helen Catholic Church & School
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SOCIAL DISTANCE LOVE AND CHARITY

Dear parishioners, we are living in a very difficult time in our lifespan that affects our social and religious lifestyle. I stepped into the sanctuary and went on the Altar to celebrate Mass with you and for you, I thought of each one of you. You could imagine the emotion I had, and it broke my heart to look at the empty pews while I knew that many of you joined and watched it online. I give thanks to God that I was able to celebrate with you through social media and livestreaming. Although social and physical distances are required, however the need to spiritually come together in the face of coronavirus is a must.

Certainly, no parishioners were there, but I know we were virtually connected through social media. Looking across the empty pews, I am urging and encouraging you, brothers and sisters at home to be there for each other, and for your parish needs. I assure you that I am here with you and for you 100% in this time of your need. It is undoubtedly that the coronavirus outbreak forced the cancellation of religious services across the Archdiocese and much of the country, but we as faith leader and your pastor, I have to step into the breach in an effort to offer mass intentions for you, to comfort and lead our parishioners to restore and assure their faith and hope in the midst of their anxiety, fear, sickness, and uncertainties. Now, we face this challenge that is causing not only psychological, spiritual, and social problems, but financial burdens for your parish to remain opened. I would like to quote the Archbishop's letter to the faithful as he invited and urged you to continue supporting your local parish:

“ On behalf of your pastors, I am personally asking that you please continue your weekly offertory support, whether sending your envelopes via mail, making an online donation through the parish website or through this [Universal Online Offertory Page](#). It is critically important that our parishes receive the offertory support they need to remain operational and sustainable despite the suspension of weekly Masses. I understand that many of you may not be able to contribute given the economic impact this pandemic is having on your personal finances; however, I hope that those who are able to continue to support their parishes will do so. Your online support will make a critical difference to the operations of your parishes during this crisis.”

You can send your envelop directly to the parish or you can stop and drop your collection directly to the parish office or you can make your collection online by visiting sthelencatholicchurch.weshareonline.org knowing that we are relying on your parish contribution.

Let us bear in mind and say to ourselves even though we are not physically close, we are all connected. One of the ministers said last week, “Every hand we don’t shake must become a phone call we make,” “Every inch and every foot of distance we put between ourselves and another must become a thought about how we could help that other one, should the need arise.” “May we each be guided to the right decisions for the good of all,” “Let us pray for all who are sick, as well as doctors, nurses, caregivers and all those working hard to combat the disease,” “This virus is no one’s fault,” Father Martin said in a video. “We still have the fundamental Christian responsibility to love people and not treat them like dirt. Lots of things have been canceled by the coronavirus, but love is not one of them.”

In the following days and week, I will send you the schedule of the Holy Week celebration to prepare yourself and your loved one for the Easter celebration of the Paschal Mystery.

Once again, let us continue to keep each other in prayer so that we may find strength, courage, and faith to live our daily lives trusting in God’s plan for us as His children.

Rev. Fr. Lucien Eugene Pierre, Ph.D.