

Saint Bernard Catholic Church

248 South Harbor Drive

Holmes Beach, FL 34217

March 25, 2020

Dear Parishioners of St. Bernard,

It has been a week since our public Masses have been suspended. I hope you all are doing well in these trying times.

I miss the celebration of the Liturgy in our beautiful church. I miss witnessing your faith and your smiling faces. Every day I celebrate Masses privately for the intentions that were previously ordered. In a special way, you and your families are included in my prayers.

Our home bound and elderly Parishioners are being provided with support via telephone calls. They have reassured me that they are praying and offering their intentions for all of us.

During this time of Lent, we emphasize and reflect upon the meaning and purpose of the cross of Jesus Christ. Our Savior suffered and died for our salvation. I encourage you to make a special intention every day and to offer up your uncertainty, fear, pain, and loneliness for the sake of Jesus' cross. Make this offering a daily routine. It is much easier for us to carry our cross of coronavirus with Him.

Let us be united in this struggle before God. We are being asked to keep a social distance -- physical isolation -- but there is no spiritual distance and there is no spiritual loneliness. We think about each other, we pray for each other, and God is in our midst in these difficult times.

So, I am closing this message with a smile. Be patient, help one another, and keep your faith strong.

Sincerely,

Fr. Chester Pastor

Rev. Chester Domaszewicz, Pastor

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