

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Peace of Christ!

We are in an unprecedented and dismayed time with the threat of the harmful disease. We are all called to keep us all in prayers and make this journey of faith together with the great hope that this will pass away. Our faith in God's providence will make us stronger in this time. In a way God wants us to slow down from all anxieties and fear and focus on His presence in lives and His presence among us when we share our faith and care for each other.

The devil has no control over us and the world and will not have control over any time, as long as we have so many Catholic Holy Masses celebrated all over the world at all times. Even though you are not physically present with me at the celebration of the Holy Mass, definitely you are spiritually present, when I pray and offer the Holy Masses along with your intentions and prayers. You all are present with as the Saints and Angels are present at all times at the Holy Mass.

Holy Mass:

All Sunday Masses and Weekday Masses will be offered as the private Masses by me, All the Mass intentions that we have planned will be offered respectively on the particular day. You are most welcome to send Mass Intentions if you prefer.

We will telecast our Live Sunday Mass at 10:30 A.M. on Sunday on our Parish Website <https://stmtours.org/>. We will also inform you as soon as

we are able to broadcast the daily Mass at St. Martin of Tours. It is more personal and joyful to have or watch the Holy Mass at our own Church.

During a time of prayer on Sunday or while viewing the Mass on T.V. or online, the faithful are encouraged to make an act of Spiritual Communion. This beautiful devotional practice in the Church is a real source of grace in communion with our Lord. Below is an example of a prayer for spiritual communion:

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

The faithful are also encouraged to prayerfully read the readings of Sacred Scripture for the day or to pray the rosary.

Holy Week and Easter:

We are not sure about any prediction on the Celebration of the Holy Week and Easter liturgies. We will wait until the Archbishop would direct us when the situation with COVID-19 changes.

Tithing:

Some of you have asked me about Tithing/ Sunday Contribution over the phone calls and emails. We still need to pay our bills and support

our employees and their families in this moment also, so I would encourage you to mail it or please make contribution through online from our Parish website <https://stmtours.org/>

Anointing of the Sick and Sacrament of Reconciliation:

According the direction from the Archdiocese, "Whenever possible, the ministering of the sacrament of anointing of the sick and/or last rites during this time should be directed toward those who are critically ill and/or in danger of death.

When requested, the Sacrament of Penance should also be offered, but care should be taken to guide those who can postpone its celebration to do so." The confession can be offered only at the grave reason or upon an emergency purpose.

You are most welcome to email me or call me at the Parish Office Phone at any time if you need any need help. We will update and stay connected with you all more in this time. The Stations of the Cross and Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet can be the great ways to renew ourselves more and grow closer to God in this moment of fear and anxiety.

In all things and situations in the past, God has protected us all from all harms and danger, so let us believe more and pray more that we will see many miracles and we will pass this lived legend of faith to the future Catholics and the whole world.

I pray for you all and your families. May God bless and protect us all!

To be the witness for His love,

Fr. Jegan Peter.