

Frequently Asked Questions

about responding to COVID-19
as Catholics & members of Saint Mark parish

Week of March 29th, 2020

Dear friends,

I hope you're doing well as we approach the end of our first full week of staying home. I also pray that you have found as I have that this time has been full of unexpected blessings – the live streamed Q&A last Saturday, our school's daily prayer via Zoom, interactions with parishioners on social media, and folks praying for each other both in our community and beyond. These are not the blessings we hoped for or anticipated, but they are wonderful blessings still. If you haven't seen it already, please watch yesterday's video from Archbishop Etienne offering encouragement to the archdiocese (<https://vimeo.com/403032424>). This, too, was an unexpected gift.

This week's Q&A letter doesn't have questions or answers to address – though I hope you'll join me for another live Q&A this Saturday. That was probably the brightest spot in my week as we settled into this new reality after the governor's proclamation and was a wonderful way to connect more personally. For this week I just want to let you know how much you are loved and missed. Despite the distances involved, seeing your comments on Facebook and talking to you via social media has been a welcome reminder of how blessed I am to be your pastor. I suppose I knew that when things were more normal, but I feel it keenly in these times when we are apart. And you are in my prayers every single day, both in my devotional time before the Lord and when I offer Mass.

For many of us, this may be an especially lonely time – perhaps moreso for those who do not have family or friends nearby. Let us continue to lift each other up in prayer. May we continue to use this time of unexpected retreat to both turn to the Lord and reach out to each other. He is with us in all of this and continues to bless this long Lent, drawing us to the joy of His resurrection.

Yours in Christ,
Father Maurer

P.S. I hope you will join me for a live Q&A on our parish Facebook page. I will be live at **noon on Saturday, April 4** – my hope is to answer questions, offer support, and be available to you even while we are apart. Please note: **you will need to be logged into Facebook in order to ask questions or comment during the live stream.**

P.P.S. I'm including links to resources gathered from the state, county, archdiocese, and other sources online. There are a couple new links (marked below) that you might find helpful, in addition to what has already been included in previous letters.

Resources

Important COVID-19 information

- CDC (Center for Disease Control): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- Washington State Novel Coronavirus Fact Sheet (multilingual): <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/NovelCoronavirusOutbreak2020/FactSheet>
- Washington State Department of Health: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus>
- News releases from Governor Jay Inslee: <https://www.governor.wa.gov/news-media/news-media>
- King County Public Health: <https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/communicable-diseases/disease-control/novel-coronavirus.aspx>
- Snohomish County Health District: <https://www.snohd.org/484/Novel-Coronavirus-2019>

(updated) Parish & archdiocesan information

- Saint Mark Catholic Church: <http://saintmarkshoreline.org/>
 - o on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SaintMarkShoreline/>
 - o online giving: <https://www.osvonlinegiving.com/149/DirectDonate/2104>
- Saint Vincent de Paul: <https://saintmarkshoreline.org/parish-life/st-vincent-de-paul-of-seattle/>
 - o online giving: <https://www.osvonlinegiving.com/149/DirectDonate/2773>
- Saint Mark parish school: <https://www.stmss.org/>
 - o on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/stmarkschoolwa>
 - o on Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/stmarkshoreline/>
- Archdiocese of Seattle: <http://www.seattlearchdiocese.org/>
 - o **(new!)** on Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/archdioceseofseattle>
- Archbishop Etienne: <https://www.archbishopetienne.com/>
 - o on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/AbpEtienne>
 - o on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ArchbishopEtienne/>
- Father Maurer: <http://fathermaurer.com/>
 - o on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/fathermaurer>

(updated) Personal or family prayer

- Magnificat online - <https://us.magnificat.net/free>
- iBreviary (available online and via apps): <http://www.ibreviary.org/en/>
- Word Among Us: <https://wau.org/>
- Give Us This Day: <https://giveusthisday.org/>
- Formed (online Catholic videos): <https://formed.org>
 - o Free with our parish code: BREQZ9
- Sacred Heart Radio - <https://sacredheartradio.org/> - AM 1050/FM 100.3
- EWTN - <https://www.ewtn.com/tv/watch-live>
 - o Also included in some cable packages
- Archdiocesan 'Faith at Home' guide: <http://www.seattlearchdiocese.org/Assets/General/At-Home-with-Faith-Resource.pdf>

- ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ collection of prayers: <https://saintmarkshoreline.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Thy-Kingdom-Come-Prayer-Book-Proof.pdf>
- **(new!)** ‘Perfect Contrition & Spiritual Communion’ prayers: <https://seattlearch.app.box.com/s/hkcedyti8kyf37kqw137galr1e5zd3qg>
- Live streamed perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
 - o Dominican Monastery (Italy): <https://www.facebook.com/www.monasterodomenicane.org/videos/239153080573540/>
 - o Tyburn Convent (London): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WclRtNhMFPc>



Our Lady of Seattle, St. James Cathedral/Photo: 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!