



St. Michael's Parish

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Why?

I am being asked often by parishioners, "Why do we have to close down the church, when more than ever we need to pray?"

Let me tell you a story.

There was once an old, old dam near a town. The dam sprung a very small leak. Right away, those governing asked residences to evacuate because at any time it could be catastrophic. This faithful man refused saying his God would rescue him. Days later the crack got bigger and water started to flood the town. Police came out with loudspeakers and urged people to leave. Again, the man refused, saying that his God would save him. Hours later the army came out in helicopters to rescue any residences left behind and again the man refused, believing that God would come and rescue him. The dam burst and the man drowned. When he went to heaven he was upset and asked St. Peter. "I had faith and waited for God to rescue me and he let me die. Why?" St. Peter replied, "God intervened three times to save you and you refused His help all three times."

And so, we are here today, my dear friends with the Coronavirus Pandemic. We are being asked by our governments and Archdiocese to self-isolate and stay home. We have NOT been asked to quit praying. Jesus tells us, "Be prudent like a serpent and innocent like a pigeon." If a serpent senses danger it slowly and quietly retreats to safety. The pigeon on the other hand is very trusting and innocent. Jesus is asking us to be like both: to be prudent and step back from danger and to be innocent like the pigeon and to trust Him as he guides us to overcome the things that come our way.

Faith is an art of survival. We don't know what is ahead of us at any given time, but we go forward in faith that God sees the "Big Picture" and that He will lead us and protect us. When Joseph and Mary fled Egypt upon hearing the intentions of Herod to kill all baby boys, they didn't challenge Herod but heeded God's prompting and trusted in Him to lead them to safety.

Now in these trying times, we are asked to self-quarantine and stay home. Through modern technology we begin new norms of worshipping and praying and we continue our faith journey in a different way. We stand united in prayer by sharing prayers virtually. I am live streaming Mass every Sunday at 9am. This is accessible through St. Michael Church website. We continue to pray together and for each other through the means that have been given to us by God today, while at the same time, respecting the requests of our governments and archdiocese stay home, for our safety and the safety of others.

I am available to each and every one of you for any spiritual need that you have. You need only phone the office and ask for an appointment. I continue to celebrate Mass every day for all of you.

We have volunteers in place to help anyone in need to run errand or pick up groceries. This year we will go through the Easter Celebrations in a new way, but nevertheless together as a parish family. We will continue to update the website daily.

I ask all of you to please take care of yourselves and each other by following the guidelines given to us. Continue to pray for me and I continue to pray for you.

I leave you with these thoughts from Pope Francis.

“Tonight, before falling asleep think about
When we will return to the street.
When we hug again,
When all the shopping together will seem like a party.

Let's think about when the coffees will return to the bar,
the small talk,
the photos close to each other.

We think about when it will be all a memory
But normalcy will seem
An unexpected and beautiful gift.

We will love everything
That has so far seemed futile to us.
Every second will be precious.
Swims at the sea,
The sun until late,
Sunsets, toasts, laughter.

We will go back to laughing together.

Strength and courage.”

- Pope Francis

Yours in Christ,
Father Silvichan Dominic, CFIC