



March 21, 2020

Dear SEAS Parishioners and Friends,

We come to our first weekend with no public Masses here at SEAS. It's quite ironic that this happens to be the 4th Sunday of Lent which we call Laetare or Rejoice! What's there to rejoice about? I guess I would rejoice in the outpouring of love and concern that is so evident in our parish and our Las Vegas community during these trying times. What will you find to "rejoice" in this weekend? All of what we, the priests and staff, are doing here is out of great concern and love for ALL of you, the people of God. So let us all rejoice in the good we witness and in the good we all do for others.

As you know, because we are not able to come together for public worship at this time, we are live-streaming all of our regularly scheduled Masses at the appropriate times, but without any congregation. This is the most effective way we can be united in prayer.

Most recently, Bishop Thomas, very much aware that we're living in very sensitive times, has given another dispensation from fasting and abstaining from meat as communicated from the Diocese:

Bishop Thomas has decreed that in accord with Canons 87, 1249-1253, all of the faithful of the Diocese of Las Vegas are dispensed from the obligatory days of fasting and abstinence (Fridays during Lent and Good Friday). He asks that the faithful perform other works of piety and charity, and to deny themselves by fulfilling their own obligations more faithfully.

The words of St. Basil of Caesarea are quite fitting at this time: "Let us fast an acceptable and very pleasing fast to the Lord. True fast is the estrangement from evil, temperance of the tongue, abstinence from anger, separation from desires, slander, falsehood and perjury. Privation of these is true fasting."

In the midst of these troubling times, let's keep our faith strong and our hope alive. One day this will all be behind us and we will emerge a stronger and more determined faith community of missionary disciples united in God's everlasting and unconditional love!

I miss you all and send you my love!

Peace always,

Fr. James M. Jankowski
Pastor