



Coronavirus (COVID –19) Update

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM FR. JIM

March 25, 2020

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

We are living in uncertain times like no other. But, two things these days are certain: 1) God always loves and cares for us and never abandons us, even when God "seems" to be most distant, and 2) the most effective way we, as a parish community, can help limit the spread or contracting of this coronavirus is to stay at home. Therefore, **Bishop Thomas has issued a Discontinuance Order for the entire Diocese of Las Vegas effective immediately, much of which we are already doing here at SEAS. In it he states:**

"We continue to witness the increase of coronavirus-related illnesses in New York, California, and Washington State, and in other epicenters like Italy and Spain.

From these highly affected communities, we are learning important lessons. Most especially, we are learning that in order to break the back of the coronavirus pandemic, it is vitally necessary to discontinue all social interaction outside the home.

This reality has been underscored by the Governor's office, the Southern Nevada Health District, and the Centers for Disease Control.

Therefore, I have concluded that there needs to be whole-hearted cooperation with the medical community's advice, which is clear and compelling.

The time has arrived for us in the Diocese of Las Vegas to close all of our worship spaces entirely, thus discontinuing access to parish churches, adoration chapels, and other parish spaces where parishioners have gathered during these difficult days."

This means that our entire parish campus is closed until further notice, and we will not be able to hold any kind of personal meetings which includes, but not limited to: confessions, counseling, or any other in-person appointments. We are available to speak with you through the phone, but please understand that confessions with any priest are not allowed remotely.

Most of us are working from home, if possible. Therefore, times for telephone conversations may be limited. Please call the parish office (702-228-8311) to make an appointment for a phone conversation. All staff are checking their voicemails regularly. But, please be patient as we adjust to situations which can change daily.

Bishop Thomas also discourages any meetings in personal homes. He states:

"I also encourage pastors to dissuade various groups, both related and unrelated to the parish (like charismatic, Marian, and fraternal organizations), from gathering in private homes, thus placing children and elderly in danger."

Again, this has already been the recent practice here at SEAS.

Bishop Thomas, as our caring shepherd, ends by saying:

"Like all of you, I await the day when we can once again gather as a Diocesan and parish community, celebrating the Eucharistic Liturgy and rejoicing in one another's company.

Until then, I am consoled by the notion that the domestic Church [the faithful at home], so eloquently described in the documents of the Second Vatican Council, remains as the primary venue for prayer, instruction of the young, and a source of consolation and comfort for our families.

Please be certain of my daily prayers, blessings and loving support."

You can read more in my letter in this weekend's bulletin which will be sent by email blast this coming Saturday. Until then, know that all of the staff here at SEAS send you our love and prayers, and that we miss you dearly!

Peace always,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J. Jim". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Fr. James M. Jankowski
Pastor