

18 March 2020

Dear Friends in Christ:

The last two weeks have been unsettling, to say the least. We've had to adapt to "social distancing," to being without our usual St. Patrick's Day celebrations, to having schools closed, and to using underground information networks to find out just when the truck will be delivering more toilet paper to the supermarkets.

As I mentioned previously, the times call for us to be more prayerful so that we can continue, in the face of our difficulties, to be patient, kind, and generous. The church is open from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily if you would like to come and pray here. Prayer opens us to the mind and the will of God. If we keep the connection with God open through prayer, He will continue to lead, guide, and strengthen us.

Our school administration and faculty did an incredible job in a short time to prepare our school children for this extended break. As you know, the *anticipated* date of return is Monday, April 6, but that can change due to circumstances. Teachers and staff have prepared lesson plans, have made copies of study materials, and will be interacting with students via the internet during the time schools are closed. Thanks, teachers and staff, for your exceptional efforts!

Please remember that, although things are mostly shut down, our parish still needs your regular contributions to pay our bills. Some people will not be in a position to make their regular donations due to the loss of work – I understand that. Many of us can keep giving, and some of us can add a little extra to make up for those without much income. Please, send your envelopes or checks in, for security, to our PO Box:

St. Peter the Apostle Church  
PO Box 30859  
Savannah, GA 31410

A couple of people have contacted me to say that they are willing to help. They can shop and deliver items, they can watch the kids for a while, they can assist you with the home schooling tasks, and they might be able to help out financially. If you have a NEED, don't hesitate to call me. If you can offer to HELP, call me or send an email to me at [frkavanaugh@spacsav.net](mailto:frkavanaugh@spacsav.net) so we can connect you with someone who needs a little support.

Our present circumstances remind us of the fragility of our existence. We know it is a reality, but times like this bring it to the forefront of our minds. So, let us pray...

*Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness.” At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.*

*Heal those who are sick with the virus.*

*May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care.*

*Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another.*

*Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.*

*Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness.” Come to our aid now, that we may experience your healing love.*

*Jesus Christ, healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.*

*Be with those who have died from the virus. May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace.*

*Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know your peace.*

*Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process.*

*May they know your protection and peace.*

*Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks.*

*May they know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth.*

*Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us your peace.*

*Jesus Christ, heal us.*

Msgr Costigan and I will be hearing confessions at the regular time – Saturday 4:30 p.m. in the church

Peace and Blessings, Fr. Michael J. Kavanaugh, Pastor