

Dear Parishioner!

Let me begin by telling you how much I have missed you since the beginning of the pandemic that has captivated the entire nation. Everything feels so surreal. As I watched every activity come to a halt including weekend liturgies it felt like something is missing. I have never experienced such situation in my life. As a pastor, I understand now how difficult it is for parents to be separated from their children when they go to college or spring break and having to deal with that experience for the first time. But all is not lost. Every situation calls us for a deeper reflection of why it is happening and what we can learn from it. As a Christian, I believe that God speaks to us through our experiences and calls us to a deeper relationship. If we believe that God is the author of our life and that he is omniscient, our current experience of the coronavirus is one way he gets our attention. Looking at the streets of some industrialized world deserted, congregations emptied, schools shut down and everyone is sheltering in place, it might be a time to acknowledge the omnipotence of God. He holds the world in his hand. You may agree with me that our world is too busy, and most times distracted with everything else but God. While the pandemic is an awful thing, at least it gives us an opportunity to recognize God. So, do not panic, have faith. This too, will pass.

As part of our solidarity with one another during this time of coronavirus outbreak, the Archbishop, Allen Vigneron has been communicating with all the priests as he extends his prayerful wishes to all Catholics within the Archdiocese of Detroit. Everyone is welcome to online mass celebration from the cathedral every Sunday (<https://www.aod.org/livemasses>).

Please feel free to call SS. John and Paul parish office for information regarding the status of our parish preparedness during this time of stress. My entire staff team is working every weekday, and some are working on weekends to take care of our parish business. This will be a good time to visit "MyParishApp" or [www.ssjohnandpaul.org](http://www.ssjohnandpaul.org) for anything regarding our parish. You can also find information on our parish Facebook page. We will be sending out weekly information to those who gave us their email addresses.

Just to remind you, that while the Archdiocese has asked that activities within the church be suspended until April 6<sup>th</sup>, I want you to know that on Palm Sunday, palms will be blessed at SS. John and Paul and kept at the Gathering Space and at main entrance of the church. You are welcome to take some for your home.

Some people have asked us about what to do with their collection envelopes. Of course, it goes without saying that this is a difficult time for us as a parish. Our revenue is 100% of your donation and when we lose a weekend mass let alone more than one weekend, it will become awfully hard to meet our obligations. Staff will be paid; utilities will be paid, and other aspects of the parish life will be maintained. So please drop off, mail in your envelopes or better still, register for online giving at <https://www.osvonlinegiving.com/1651> or by going to our website clicking on "♥Giving" to help us keep the church afloat.

While the church is empty, we will be using this opportunity to vacuum, mop and disinfect everywhere so that when you return, you would have a clean disinfected church to worship at.

Once again, know that I love you and miss you and can't wait to see you again. My faith tells me that God will see us through this mess. Wishing you many blessings now and always!

Sincerely in Christ and Mary,



Fr. Festus Ejimadu  
Pastor

