



March 19, 2020

Dear Parishioners of the Basilica of St. Paul,

It is with a heavy heart I write to you to notify you that the Bishops of Florida have suspended all Masses in Catholic Churches in the State of Florida due to the Corona Virus (COVID-19) beginning Thursday March 19, 2020. Enclosed, I share with you Bishop Noonan's letter to Christ's faithful in the Diocese of Orlando.

Although our church building is closed, the Church (the People of God) is alive and well. We are all a part of a living Church who is the Body of Christ. Although we cannot receive Christ in the Eucharist, we are His living presence in our community. The family is known as the Domestic Church. This crisis provides us an opportunity for us to live the old saying, "The family that prays together, stays together."

There are a multitude of prayer opportunities on-line and the opportunity to attend Mass via television and live streamed on the internet. There are lists of helpful sites in the Basilica of St. Paul website and on MyParish App. Weekly Bulletins will be found through these sites. It is hoped that the Basilica will be able to provide recorded Masses and/or live streamed masses in the future.

If you have received this letter by mail **but not by email**, this means our office does not have your email address. Please email Sharon Williams at [swilliams@basilicaofsaintpaul.com](mailto:swilliams@basilicaofsaintpaul.com).

Certainly, this pandemic is creating an economic crisis as well. With no Masses for the coming weeks the Basilica of St. Paul will suffer. As your pastor, I encourage you to continue your weekly contributions by mailing it to the Basilica or drop it by the office. You can also set up contributions through WeShare. The link can be found on the Basilica website or MyParish App. As the Body of Christ, we share in the suffering and sacrifice of Christ, especially this Lenten season. Thank you in advance for your generosity and commitment to the Basilica of St. Paul.

During this time of the closure of the church and suspension of all activities, our office will remain open during regular hours. If you have keys to access any of the buildings on campus, I ask you refrain from entering.

We do not know when Masses will resume, but we join in solidarity from our homes praying for an end of this crisis. We pray for those who have been affected by the virus and we pray for all health care workers. May our patron, St. Paul intercede for us. He reminds us that "When one part [of the body] suffers, all the parts suffer with it." (I Cor. 12:26a) May we possess the suffering and join it to Christ's.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Timothy P. Daly