

Dear Parishioners of the Church of the Visitation,

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, the *deconstruction* and *reconstruction* of our daily lives due to the onset of the Covid-19 is unprecedented in our modern age, and it is no doubt that all of us are experiencing inconveniences and the challenge to keep up with the dynamic changes associated with this pandemic. However, it is important that we continue to pray for the sick, especially for those with the virus, medical and first response personnel, and for those that have lost loved ones due to the virus. For the faithful, one of the most difficult challenges facing the community is how do we remain connected as the Body of Christ and yet practice social distancing? As declared by the decree sent out by Bishop Joe Vasquez this week all public Masses and Lenten Penance Services have been canceled until Holy Week with the possibility of later updates and changes coming. Any changes I receive from Bishop Joe Vasquez, I will put in the bulletin and email to the Knights of Columbus, Altar Society, and on the Church webpage. I also strongly suggest periodically checking the Diocese of Austin website for the latest news concerning this outbreak and its impact on the Church. After speaking with Rev. Richard O' Rourke, the dean of the Temple/Killeen deanery, I have decided to keep the bulletin available to the parish, and the RE building will be open during day--through the week and weekend. To give you the opportunity to pray in front of the Blessed Sacrament; however, please do not gather in large groups. You can pick up your bulletin from the RE building Saturday afternoon or on Sunday, and at the same time if you want you can drop off your collection envelope by placing it in the slot on the wall that connects to the safe located in the room left of the altar. I would ask that the money counters still continue to count the weekly offering, but please take precautions (gloves and masks if we can find some), and if you are more vulnerable to the virus please find a replacement or contact the office. At this time, I will not videotape the private masses I say; however, there are alternatives to being able to watch the Mass on TV. St. Louis in Waco has their current Sunday Mass on **channel 46 (CW)**, and the previous Sunday Mass on **channel 10**. EWTN normally has Mass televised along with the Catholic TV Network on You Tube, and I expect there will be local churches that televise their Masses on their webpage or on Facebook. Please contact me for the *Sacrament of Reconciliation* or for the *Anointing of the Sick*, and *Funeral Masses* can be done but restricted to the immediate family. I was planning to take vacation next week, but will postpone it until a later date. However, I will not be here for the weekend of the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, but I will move the Mass intentions for that weekend to a later date. I thank you for your prayers and continued support as I continue to pray for you and for the Church of the Visitation, and for the universal Church in this challenging time.

Sincerely, Your Pastor in Christ,  
Rev. Darrell Kostiha