

A LETTER FROM FATHER DANIEL CARUSO

3/16/2020

Dear Parishioners,

This is a letter that I could never imagine having to write but these challenging times have led us to this place. By now many of you should have already heard that Bishop Lucia has suspended any public gatherings for Mass, prayer, and Faith formation. We do not know how long this will last. The Bishop hopes and prays that we will be able to publicly celebrate Holy Week and Easter in our churches. Please know that through this period of time I will privately offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass each day for the intentions that have been previously requested and for all of you and your spiritual and physical well being. I will still be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the normal time each week as well as for the times scheduled during the two weeks before Easter. You can find the schedule for Confessions at the bottom of this letter. Please be aware that confession will most likely not take place in the Reconciliation Room. Signs will be posted in the church informing you of the location of the priest(s). We were scheduled to welcome Bishop Cunningham next Tuesday to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. That celebration will be rescheduled for a later date. We have also canceled a number of events that were scheduled to take place over the next few weeks, including the Poor Man's Supper in Honor of St. Joseph, Breakfast with the Easter Bunny, the Friends Retreat and Holy Thursday Breakfast. The Basket Bonanza scheduled for March 28th has been postponed.

We will continue to post updates on our parish website ourladyofpompei-stpeters.org and on our Facebook page (Our Lady of Pompei/ St. Peter's Church).

The parish offices will be closed for awhile; I don't know for how long. I will be in the office everyday so if you call and I don't pick up, please leave a message on the main voicemail. **In case of an emergency**, please feel free to call me on my cell phone at 607-743-7235. If you or somebody in the family needs to receive the Sacrament of the Sick please don't delay in calling me.

I realize how frightening all this can be; as your pastor I encourage all of us to turn to Our Blessed Lord at this time. We are truly being asked to share in His Cross during this Lent. We need to turn to Him with our prayers, seeking His mercy, His Grace, and

His Healing Presence. Please join your Brothers and Sisters throughout the Diocese of Syracuse in praying daily the **“Novena Prayer for an end to the Coronavirus Pandemic”**

O Mary, full of grace, Patroness of this nation and Mother of the Church, in this time of illness and worldwide need we seek your intercession for the human family before your Son’s throne of grace and mercy. We ask for strength in adversity, health in weakness, and comfort in sorrow. Help us, O Blessed Mother, to be filled with confidence and trust in the tender compassion of our God. Let us not be afraid, like our own Saint Marianne Cope, who entrusted her life and ministry among the outcasts of society into the care of our Divine Physician. Continue to watch over all who are sick as well as those who care for them and give wisdom to all who are seeking a cure. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

I believe that with a little common sense, a lot of Charity, and even more prayer we will make it through this challenging time. I continue to pray for all of you; please remember to pray for me.

In Christ,
Fr. Caruso