

Dear Parish Family,

My heart aches because, due to this Coronavirus pandemic, we are unable to celebrate Eucharist together for, what I hope will be, a brief time. Please be assured that I will continue to remember you and your family in the private Masses that I will be offering. During these difficult days, while we cannot congregate to celebrate Eucharist, it seems to me that the Lord is inviting us to be Eucharist to one another.

If you remember in the Gospel text for the Third Sunday of Lent, in His conversation with the Samaritan woman, when she said that they, the Samaritans, worshiped on the mountain, while Jews saw Jerusalem as the place to worship, Jesus responded, "Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem..." "the hour is now here, when true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth, and indeed the Father seeks such people to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in Spirit and truth."

Now is the time! The time is here! We, who are blessed to be a Eucharistic people, are now called to be Eucharist to one another. There are so many ways we can do that:

1. *Praying together in the Sanctuary of the Home for all who are sick and ministering to the sick. (May I recommend for your consideration the Family Rosary, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, Prayer of Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and the Prayer of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary);*

2. *Calling up elderly relatives, friends, neighbors, offering to shop for them or pick up medicines or other necessities for them;*

3. *Preparing meals for families suddenly faced with unemployment.*

These are just a few ways in which we can show ourselves to be the Eucharistic people we claim to be. I am sure you, in your own creative ways, can think of myriad other ways in which you might serve others, and thereby "worship the Father in Spirit and in truth."

Also to aid your spirituality during this crisis and season of Lent, we have joined FORMED (a Catholic Netflix and Book Club) that you may use right at home. FORMED provides the very best Catholic content from more than 60 organizations to help parishes, families and individuals explore their faith anywhere. Supporting thousands of movies, children's programs, ebooks, audio, parish programs and studies direct to your browser, mobile or connected device.

It is simple to join.

1. Visit [FORMED.org](https://www.formed.org)
2. Click Sign Up
3. Select "I Belong to a Parish or Organization"
4. Find your St. Jerome's on the list after entering our zip code 19136
5. Enter an email address and follow the prompts

While this is indeed a health crisis that effects all of us, it is also a financial crisis for many. Many of our people find themselves suddenly unemployed and are experiencing financial distress. To the extent that we are able, we need to help where we can.

It is also my pastoral responsibility to make you aware that our parish is also experiencing financial distress. As you are aware, we are totally dependent on your generosity in our weekly Offertory to meet our financial obligations. Without that income we cannot pay utility and other maintenance bills; pay our staff who are needed to keep the parish operating; or meet our need to keep our parish functioning. ***Therefore, I have to plead with you to please continue to support your parish by mailing in your weekly offering or setting up electronic***

giving. All you have to do is visit our website www.stjeromechurchphila.org and click the DONATE tab at the top of the home page. If you have any questions give Roseann our parish business manager a call. Without your continued support, our parish cannot sustain itself.

With God's help, the Lord's love for His Church, our Blessed Mother's constant intercession on our behalf, and the Holy Spirit's encouragement of your generous hearts, I am confident that we will continue to grow as the Eucharistic Family of St. Jerome Parish. Please know that I love you and constantly am praying for you and your Family.

God Love Ya!

Fr. Reilly