March 27, 2020.

My Dear Parishioners,

We are living through an unprecedented and uncertain time due to the public health threat caused by the coronavirus. Let us remember that God is with us, He walks with us and He will not abandon us, even as we are, at least for the moment, forced to change the way we are living. As your pastor, please know of my love and support for each and every member of our parish community. I am with you and will remain with you through this.

We know that this pandemic has changed the way we are able to practice our faith. Because of public health agency directives and genuine concern over the potential spread of coronavirus, all public Masses in the Diocese, including our parish, are suspended. Likewise, the Sacraments of Confession and Baptism are not available, and First Communion and Confirmation programs are also suspended until further notice.

Nothing could be more painful for me and for Bishop Barnes than to have to suspend the Sunday Mass and these other fundamental elements of our faith. It is a cross we will carry together in this Lenten Season. We hope and trust in God that these sacrifices will benefit the common good in protecting our people from serious illness or even death.

Our parish staff is maintaining limited operations so that we may remain connected to you and your families. Although we cannot receive the public due to health directives, you can still call or email us at the office. We will still stay in touch with you, especially if you need a visit to a sick relative. We will also do our best to continue religious education and spiritual formation through online programs. We will send you further information on how to access these programs.

Sadly, we know the crisis will affect our financial health as a parish. As your Pastor I am committed to guiding us through this crisis, but I will need your help. Please try to continue your generous financial support by
mailing your weekly Sunday donations to our parish office. Also please consider the option of online giving, which you can sign up for on our parish website. As a Parish, we will be taking immediate steps to limit expenses. But we still depend on your generous donations to keep our parish alive.

In the midst of this crisis we may be tempted to isolate ourselves in fear. Please remember that our Catholic faith calls us to continue to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in all that we say and do throughout our homes and communities. So, take this time to strengthen the bonds of your family, show extra compassion and care for the poor, and never lose hope and trust in Our Lord Jesus. Please keep your family’s faith alive by viewing the Mass online, reading the Sacred Scriptures daily, and taking time to pray and grow in your Catholic faith as a family.

The coronavirus may frighten us, but it will not defeat us. May Our Lord Jesus, the Good Shepherd, guide us together in the days and weeks ahead. Smile! God loves you!

Yours in His service,

Administrator
Rev. Kien Kieu