

Dear Holy Cross Parish Family,

It is still hard to fathom that just over a week ago we still gathered to celebrate the Eucharistic Liturgy. On the Third Sunday of Lent weekend, even though our numbers had dwindled, those present heard excellent reflections given by a number of parishioners concerning how to cope with the Coronavirus pandemic from a faith perspective. The expressions, “We will get through this – together,” “Do not be afraid;” “Am I ready?” “Trust;” “Be kind;” and “Keep a sense of humor” still resonate deeply and give me encouragement as this crisis continues to unfold. My thanks to Larry Russell, Scott and Barb Lee, David Hutzel, and Bruce Kobal for sharing their insights and transparency.

I also found hope and consolation in Bishop Persico’s editorial that appeared in Sunday’s Erie Times News. I would highly recommend taking the time to read and reflect upon it. In addition, the Lenten publications you may have received from the parish, *Give us this Day* and *Daily Reflections for Lent* should also serve as spiritual resources.

Another helpful resource is the *Life-Long Faith Formation website*: www.hc-parish.org. It is designed for the entire parish not just the Faith Formation families and has connecting links to important diocesan communication.

For now the parish office is open. Jo Ann still thinks she is a 20 something and immune to disease, but please, business needs to be conducted by telephone only and not by visitation. Please note the office is open from 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM, subject to change.

Please be assured that I am praying with and for you by way of personal Mass and Holy Hour each day. I am here for you in any way I can be of service. Please do not hesitate to call.

Even though I will not be able to take Communion calls or do hospital/nursing home visits until further notice, please let us know if you or someone in your family is admitted to the hospital, so I can contact them by phone. My hope is to keep the lines of communication open with you for as long as this situation persists.

Even though a cruise to the Bahamas sounds enticing and may prove to be a cheap vacation, I am not planning any trips away from the parish in the near future. Know that I am with you and I ensure you that we will get through this together, with God’s help.

Love and Peace,

Fr. Tom



*Let us continue our
Lenten journey together
in mind, heart and prayer.
Do not be anxious . . .
Jesus walks with us
for he is the Way.*