



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Like a dream, this first Sunday of self-quarantine has come upon us. I know it is very difficult for any of us to accept but I encourage everyone to consciously redirect ourselves from focusing on the inconveniences and frustration of this time to see what we can do to strengthen our prayer life in this current situation. This is a time of testing. We have seen in the history of the Church that the Church usually grows stronger during challenging times like this. The current situation is a reminder of what Jesus means when he tells us to take up our crosses and follow him daily (Mt 16:24-26). I appeal to you to pray with hope and trust in God and to remain optimistic as we go through this difficult time.

Here are some suggestions I have on ways we can nourish our faith during this time:

1. Praying as a family. The self-quarantine has inadvertently made it possible for most of us to have more family time together. I encourage you to take advantage of this time to appreciate each other in your family and strengthen our family bond. In particular, I suggest you create family prayer times to pray together as a family. A family Bible study, family Catechism time, watching Catholic and Holy movies, praying the Rosary, Divine Mercy, Praying the Divine Office and other types of prayers will be helpful at this time. Remember the saying: "The family that prays together stays together."
2. I encourage everyone to watch the Sunday Mass with our Bishop, Olmsted on KAZT Channel 7 AT 9AM every Sunday. Masses are also offered at different times on EWTN (Channel 261, dish network; 370, DirectTV and 113, COX). Mass in Spanish is also offered on KPDF Channel 41. Daily and Sunday private Masses offered in our parish are recorded and will be posted on our parish social media and website. I apologize that we have not been able to post the Masses offered on Friday and Saturday yet. We are having some technical problems and will have them posted as soon as the problem is resolved.
3. Do you prefer to use mobile Apps for prayers? No problem, here are some Catholic Prayers Apps you may find helpful: Laudate, ibreviary, Universalis, CatholicTV, RosaryPlusRD, Divine Office, Catholic Prayers, Daily TV Mass, Relevant Radio, iMissal Catholic, iRosary and many others.
4. Here are some websites and Catholic Apps you may also find helpful for Bible study and Faith Formation: FORMED.ORG, National Catholic Register, Wordonfire.org, Catholic

Answers (Catholic.com), Magnificat (App), Verbum Catholic Bible Study (verbum.com), Word Among Us (App), Radio Maria (Spanish) and many others.

Lastly, besides the impact of the crisis on our ability to worship in public, I am also aware of the economic hardship many our parishioners are experiencing right now. I imagine how it feels like to live with the fear of job insecurity, dwindling family income, increased family bills and other challenges. I feel insensitive to talk about parish offertory at time but please be aware that our parish is also highly affected financially by this crisis. I thank our parishioners who called and sent their offertory envelopes during the week. Also, thanks to those who have been giving Online. If you have not sign up for electronic giving, I invite you to please sign up by visiting membership.faithdirect.net/AZ582 or mail in an enrollment form that is available in the parish lobby. You may also mail your envelope each week, if you prefer. We rely heavily on the weekly offertory especially at this critical time with no public Masses. Let us keep on praying for an end to the pandemic.

Thank You and Remain Blessed.

Fr James Aboyi, VC
Pastor