

St Raymond De Penafort

"Welcome. Love. Serve."

301 S. I-Oka Avenue
Mt. Prospect, IL 60056
(847) 253-8600
www.st-raymond.org

March 25, 2020

Dear St. Raymond Family:

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:4-7)

St. Paul reminds us that the source of peace during the common crisis we face is the link that we have with God and one another in prayer. Prayer with and for others unites us as we are separated. In prayer, there is no social distancing. St. Paul also reminds us that an attitude of thanksgiving is our continued source of joy. It is easy to focus on what we have lost or cannot do as we are confined to our homes. We can counter that by giving thanks daily for each other and by looking for the ways that the Lord is providing for us.

Last week, we received the news that we will not be able to celebrate Holy Week in public worship. While this is definitely not what was planned for our community, we are thankful for the resources to live stream Masses to keep connected with our community from their homes. **St. Raymond will continue to live stream Sunday Masses at 11:00 a.m., through our website: <http://www.st-raymond.org/>, for at least the next three weekends including Palm Sunday, and Easter – we hope you will join us.** During Holy Week, I am encouraging our community to join in unity with the Archdiocese of Chicago by viewing the services streamed from Holy Name Cathedral. To access the Archdiocese livestreams go to: <https://radiotv.archchicago.org/television/broadcast-masses>. Jesus prayed for all of his disciples "that they all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that the world may believe that you sent me". (John 17:21). There is no greater unity than unity in prayer. So, let us unite with our sisters and brothers across the Chicago Archdiocese to witness to our faith in Jesus Christ.

In addition to live streaming weekend Mass, we are offering additional resources to enrich your prayer life including a family faith focus section that offers Lenten activities, Order of the Mass, and praying the Rosary. These resources are updated frequently and can be found on the St. Raymond website: <http://www.st-raymond.org/welcome/ways-to-pray/>.

I recognize that this is a time of financial challenges for our families; this is true for our parish family as well. Our parish and school ministries continue to depend on your generosity as the staff continues to work hard to support the parish and community, during this challenging time and beyond, through enhanced communication efforts.

Some of you may be aware of the sites set up by the Archdiocese of Chicago for universal online giving to any parish, and an emergency fund promising tuition support for Catholic school students. Pastors have received no specific information regarding how these funds will be

dispersed with this form of giving. **The best way to support St. Raymond remains to give directly to the parish, as you have been doing.** Our main resource for online giving is Give Central. This is a secure website where your financial data is safe and can be entered with confidence. Please visit our secure online giving by going to our main page of our website: <http://www.st-raymond.org/>. Give Central allows you to give a one-time gift or create an account for reoccurring donations. If you would like to continue to use your envelopes, you can still do so by place your envelopes in our mailbox (located outside the PMC Office door, staff will be checking daily) or mailing directly to the parish at:

St. Raymond Parish
301 S. I-Oka
Mount Prospect, IL 60056

We will be able to coordinate and record your giving no matter how you decide to give. Should you want to learn about additional ways to give to St. Raymond or have questions, please reach out to Mary Siefke at 847-253-8600 x.135, she is happy to assist you. Thank you for your continued generosity in the face of financial challenges!

For those of you who want to participate in the Catholic Relief Services collection for Operation Rice Bowl, I encourage you to donate directly to CRS this year through their website: <https://www.crs.org/>. Those who have already submitted donations can be confident that the parish staff will process those and see that they are received by CRS.

Finally, please be aware of scams. A time of crisis is a time for scam artists to con others. Please be assured that neither I, nor any member of the parish staff, will ever ask you to use your own personal funds to purchase anything. Any request appearing to come from me or any member of the parish staff must be considered to be a scam. The way to give is not to respond to seeming requests from priests or staff and to give directly to the parish.

Be assured of my prayers for all of you. The parish and school staffs continue to be here to serve you and appreciate your support and suggestions.

Peace Be With You,


Fr. Scott Hebden, Pastor