

Holy Family parishioners and all children of God.

We are in uncharted waters for our time. We have had "Safe Haven Sunday", thinking that was going to be our priority for some time. Although it is important and we continue to have materials at the Church Office and on-line it has to take a back seat to the coronavirus-19. This is frightening times and confusing, but we only need to turn to the scriptures where Christ tells us countless times, "Do not be afraid", I am with you always, even until the end of time.

His promise should give us hope but our humanity can give us anxiety and doubt. Our answer like always needs to be rooted in a few back to the basic life lessons.

1. **Trust in God and pray** unceasingly to carry our cross daily until we can rise from the ashes of this danger. Remember such challenges are not persecutions of God but opportunities for us to live out our faith in difficult times as Mary did in her life.
2. **Be properly informed** and do not listen to the false prophets or social media voices of doom. Listen to and read correct and honest information by proper sources in the news, church or on social media. This is a time when social media can be a voice of good and not the weapon of personal destruction, so many seem to use it for.
3. **Follow the boundaries and guidelines** that are being sent out by our government, church and diocese as they are important. None of us individually should think we are exempt or more important than the whole; Do what is proper for our common good.
4. **Use common Sense**, protect your family but let's all help protect all of God's family. Respect one another for Christ said to love your enemies and pray for your persecutors. This is a time when love can do far more than this illness can do to destroy us.  
As hard as it is to believe at this time, this too will pass but we must BELIEVE IN GOD!
5. **Adjust how we communicate, limit touching** one another at this time. Although most of us really don't like the restrictions, they are necessary.
6. **Don't over saturate yourself with negative news or disasters.** Be creative and do something fun for yourself and your family every day. It's OK to be silly and childlike. But don't be stupid.
7. **Make your family a priority**, eat together, pray together, play together and even with the need for safe space (6 feet) between one another, be sure to personally bless one another.

I am myself am having a hard time as spiritual shepherd of Holy Family not being able to offer the Eucharistic meal, the mass with you. As a priest this is a major cross but I will carry it till it is OK to restore our communal services. In the meantime, the staff is helping me setup a way to present my private mass in the daily chapel to you a couple of days a week. Please keep checking our website of updates on what is being done. Although we can't have groups of more than 10 people at a gathering, 6 feet apart, it is OK to have the chapel open. Please if you come sit several feet apart and do not invite a group to join you. Seniors in particular should remain home, check our website and tune into channel 15 on Cox or .... the Diocese of Baton Rouge TV channel. God bless you all, prayers and love from myself and the staffs of HFC and HFS.

In Christ,

Fr. David