

March 18, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

At Saint Philomena Catholic Church our clergy and staffs' primary concern is the health and safety of our community. We continue to pray for those who are sick, and for a fast-moving resolution to the current public health crisis. We are all impacted by the spread of COVID-19. Our parish does not want to add to any anxieties. For that reason, we intend to continue communication surrounding our parish activities.

Archbishop Gomez has suspended the celebration of all public Masses amid the current health threat. Masses are livestreamed in English and Spanish from the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels via Facebook @lacatholics.

Please know that we are committed to advancing the mission of our parish and our Church at this time. If you hear from our staff, know that we want to stay connected to you. If, and when, we have new information, we will also be sharing this news. Please also be conscious of your responsibility to support the work of the Church. Our parish is dependent upon the weekly offertory collection to continue its ministry and its ability to maintain our staff. We would be most grateful for your continued financial support while our collections may be significantly affected. You may mail in your weekly offertory donations to the parish, or transition to online giving using this link: <https://www.stphilomenaparish.org/online-giving>.

It is not just our parish that will experience the financial consequences of COVID-19. We must continue to support those most vulnerable – the poor, those with less stable employment, parents who need to work and are unable to provide childcare with school closures, as well as college students unable to return home. The elderly and sick may feel isolation and loneliness, too. In the spirit of Lent, I ask all of us to cut out unnecessary things from our daily lives and to practice a spirit of gratitude and generosity to others.

Please join me in prayer for the repose of those who have died, for the recovery of those who are sick, for the strength of healthcare workers and caregivers and for an end to this health crisis.

Please be assured of my prayers for all of you, our Saint Philomena parishioners, and know that the parish priests are here for you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Ilano', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Fr. Francis Ilano
Pastor