

NOTE FROM FR. JOHN:

Dear Parishioners:

I pray that you and your families are holding up well under these extraordinary circumstances. It is my intention to provide weekly updates through Flock Notes and our parish website.

- (1) Only 67% of our parishioners who registered for Flock Notes received them last weekend. Even I did not receive them. We are looking into this matter. In the meantime, our website will provide the same updates. Please share these updates with parishioners who are not receiving them.
- (2) Some parishioners have asked about live streaming our daily and Sunday masses from the Magdalene. We are looking into it, but I am not hopeful. As many of you know, we are in a geographical location with extremely poor cell service and spotty internet connectivity. These present unique technical challenges. However, we are exploring the possibility of making it happen. If it is doable, the live streaming of Holy Week services would be a timely test. In the meantime, the cathedral is live streaming. Check the diocesan website for info. You may also google our neighboring parishes to see if live streaming is available.
- (3) To my knowledge, no parishioner has contracted the virus nor has tested positive for the virus.
- (4) Some parishes are having “drive through confession” in their parish parking lot. I see no need for this “out of the box” aberration. In the military I heard a good number of confessions in the field on a one to one basis because circumstances dictated a wide degree of latitude in exercising pastoral concern, and it afforded military personnel the unique opportunity of easing their consciences of some deep rooted, long held, burdens in a venue away from home and work. Such occasions are rarely offered and it was gratifying to see soldiers embrace the opportunity. Under our present circumstances, however, remember our Catholic theology: Anyone who believes they are in serious sin need only make an act of perfect contrition to be forgiven. Of course, I am available at the rectory for anyone who would like to receive the sacrament of penance, with the usual medical precautions in place.
- (5) The church remains open daily from 9-4 until and unless future circumstances dictate otherwise.
- (6) The diocese has issued new guidelines to pastors concerning the administration of the sacrament of baptism, funerals, and weddings. Baptisms are to be deferred to a later date, unless it is an emergency. No funerals are to be held in a church or funeral home. Prayers, however, may be said at a burial. In such cases I will work with a family and a funeral home to reach a reasonable and pastoral

compromise. Scheduled weddings, if not postponed, may include only witnesses and immediate family.

- (7) We continue to explore “We Share” for making weekly contributions automatically. For the time being you may mail in your weekly contribution or drop it off at the white mailbox at the rear door of the rectory. Do not feel guilty if you can no longer sustain your weekly contribution at the level to which you were accustomed. Remember, family comes first!
- (8) Please stay safe and healthy and follow all the precautions suggested by the medical community. Thank you to all who have asked how I am doing. So far, so good. Even though I had no Irish soda bread on St. Patrick’s Day, one of our parishioners made sure I had St. Joseph’s pastry on March 19th!

CARDINAL’S STEWARDSHIP APPEAL 2020: Most of our parishioners received a form for the Cardinal’s Appeal. Simply fill out the card and mail directly to the Archdiocese. **PLEASE MAKE CHECK OUT TO “CARDINAL’S APPEAL.”**

As of 3/20/2020

<u>Goal</u>	<u>Pledged</u>	<u># of Donors</u>	<u>Donor Goal</u>
\$48,000	\$23,965	48	130

To make your gift online, visit cardinalsappeal.org.

ANYONE IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE? Please contact rectory at 914-631-0529 if you need help during this difficult time (food shopping, etc.).

PRAYER TO THE VIRGIN MARY FOR PROTECTION

O, Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.

At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus’ pain, with steadfast faith.

You, Our Lady of New York, know what we need.

We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, Joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father’s will
And to do what Jesus tells us:

He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us,
Through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection.

Amen.