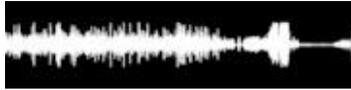


Well, we are another few days into our “new normal”. We have lots of new ways of doing (and not doing!) things. In the parish many things have completely stopped. I spend a few different times in prayer alone in the church each day. As we had difficulty enforcing the social isolation and cleaning policy required, I reluctantly decided to close the church for the time being. So when I do go over there—in my own way—I bring all of you with me in prayer. The Food Pantry is still operating regular hours. At this time A.A. has ceased to meet here Mon-Fri. They have gone to an online meeting



Last weekend the mass was streamed and we have had 790 views, along with many positive comments received from people about feeling connected as a parish. Many said “not the same as being there”---but also “seeing our own altar, our own musicians, as well as our old guy at our altar, brought us together”. However, as good as all that is—there was no way to literally receive the Eucharist. Maybe this time will call us to deeper appreciation of the Eucharist when we do get together again to worship. In the olden days we practiced a thing called “spiritual communion”. I have a reflection from the late Tony DeMello S.J. called the “The Promise” that might be helpful. I shared with Eucharistic ministers over the years—and I will post it on the website and Facebook page.



One of the jobs of the pastor is signing checks to pay bills. As you can see in the bulletin, (not surprisingly) our income has taken a massive hit. A lot of our parishioners are suddenly out of work and have bills to pay, so we can't be asking them to step up the plate—we can't even pass the plate! The diocese has decided at this time, **not** to cut priests salaries, but we have been encouraged to give more to the parish financially. Maybe some of you who have steady income during this time might be in a position to do the same.

We regularly mail a copy of the bulletin to the homebound. If you think of anyone else that might appreciate receiving it in the mail. Let us know.

Keep an eye on the website and FB for updates. Send any comments or suggestions my way.

Let's keep trying to keep in touch—especially since we cannot touch.

A Lent you will never forget—keep on Lenting!

Peter

