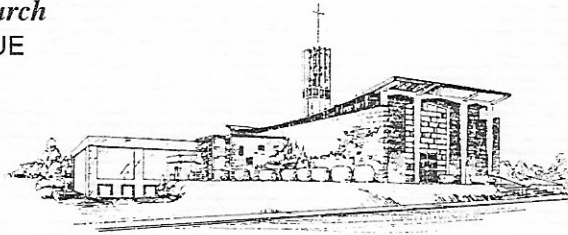


St. Mark the Evangelist Church
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March 23, 2020

Dear Ones,

These are difficult and strange times that demand of us fidelity, patience and flexibility. Fr. Brommer, Director of the Office of Divine Worship, has shared the following to help emphasize several doctrinal, theological, and pastoral aspects of the Sacred Liturgy:

- **The Sacred Liturgy is about God.** Our worship is oriented to the Triune God. It is an act of adoration and thanksgiving that does not depend on the faithful being gathered together in one physical space. Because of this, the Sacred Liturgy needs to continue with care and devotion during this time of limitation. We need to continue to offer the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit a sacrifice of praise.
- **The Sacred Liturgy is an activity done on behalf of the people.** The very word “leiturgia” comes from a Greek word that means doing the work that benefit of the people. Our engagement of the Sacred Liturgy during this time reminds us that we are motivated by pastoral charity to offer the Sacred Liturgy as an act that gathers up the prayer and praise of the people into one perfect worship in Christ, priests do this in persona Christi capitis. The Sacred Liturgy is also intercessory prayer on behalf of the people where the priest stands united to Christ interceding before the Father on behalf of the whole Church and the needs of the world.
- **The Sacred Liturgy is an action of the entire Church, the Body united to the Head.** Even if a priest celebrates Mass completely alone during these days, although not the preferred option of the Church since the Roman Missal does not provide for such an option, the action is one that unites the entire Church in Heaven, in Purgatory, and on earth in a spiritual communion with Christ the head.
- **The Church and the world need the Sacred Liturgy.** The Sacred Liturgy, expressed in its height with the Sacrifice of the Holy Mass, includes the Divine Office (the Liturgy of the Hours) and those other celebrations given to us through the liturgical tradition of the Church, as the most powerful means of extending in time the eternal fruits of Christ’s redeeming grace. In times such as these, the fruits of healing and peace are needed more than ever. Whenever those who are charged with the responsibility of undertaking the Sacred Liturgy do so with the intentionality and devotion demanded of their offices, we are fulfilling a pastoral duty that is truly the source and summit of what the Church and world needs in every time and every place, most especially today.

Therefore, in my personal effort to be in compliance with the directives of the Holy Father and Bishop Gainer, I will privately be celebrating the Masses of Holy Week and all other Masses until further notice.

Please know that you and your loved ones are in my intentions as I celebrate The Most Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

In Christ,

Fr. Walter