

March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020



**Dear Parishioners of the Blessed Sacrament Parish,**

These are certainly unprecedented times in which I find myself writing you. We are in the middle of Lent and unable to come together for various services as we would normally at this time. Many of us may feel isolated, anxious and fearful with the news constantly offering us the most severe scenarios of the pandemic surrounding us. As your Pastor, my primary concern is the holiness, health and safety of our parishioners. I am praying for all who have been impacted by the current health crisis - the sick and their care givers, the poor, those with less stable employment, and parents who need to work and are unable to find childcare. In a special way, we want to support the elderly, sick and shut-ins who may feel isolated and lonely. I am praying for each of you and ask you to join me in praying for others who need it most.

The spread of COVID-19 has enormously impacted our parish, our community and our country. Our Church's primary role is to provide for the spiritual and pastoral needs of the faithful. Additionally, as members of the broader community, we are committed to participating in the larger response by our cities and state. All seven bishops from Florida made the difficult decision to suspend Masses, other liturgical events and gatherings based upon CDC and state government guidelines. It is our responsibility as local priests to provide for the needs of our parishioners within these parameters. At **the Blessed Sacrament Parish, Cocoa**, we are providing daily Holy Mass, daily prayers for our parishioners and visitors, everyone sick and their families around the world, and spiritually we are together as one Christ's Family. Please feel free to call the parish office or email me with other suggestions that you would find helpful at this time.

We are committed to continuing the good work of our parish and the Church at this time. We want to thank each of you for the many ways you support our mission and ask that you please continue to support the work of our Church as you are able. While we are unable to attend Mass in person, our parish continues to be dependent upon your weekly gifts to continue its ministry during these challenging times. The offertory is the lifeblood of our parish. Please use this time to transition to online giving using this link:

**<http://www.blessedsacramentcocoa.org/>**

**(Give Online)**

or mail your weekly offertory donations to the parish:

**Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church,**

**5135 North Cocoa Blvd.,**

**Cocoa, FL 32927.**

We are most grateful for your contributions.

I ask you again to 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 Blessed Sacrament parishioners**, and know that we are here for you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Mark Sarniewicz, SDS

Pastor