



Saint John Vianney Church

Gladwyne, Pennsylvania

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March 24, 2020, Tuesday of the Fourth Week of Lent

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Over the last two weeks, I along with our dedicated staff at Saint John Vianney Parish have striven to reach out and to remain in contact with you, our dear parishioners and friends, in order to share with you important and updated information about the life and mission of the Parish, to offer support, prayers, and encouragement to each person and to each family, and to advance the work and mission of the Church to serve God's people despite restrictions during this time of uncertainties and real difficulties.

I write to you today for three purposes:

First, **We are all praying!** Be assured of our continued prayers. Each day prayers, including the Holy Mass, the Divine Office, and Rosaries, are offered by your pastor for you asking for God's gift of health, happiness, and holiness for each member of our community and beyond. Know that as a community of faith, hope, and charity, we are all - clergy, staff, and parishioners - united in prayer in this moment of great need.

Second, **We are serving!** We are ministering to those who are dying with the celebration of Last Rites at their bedside. Those who have died are being buried with Catholic graveside services with large public Memorial Masses to be held in the future when the public celebration of the Holy Mass will be reinstated. We will be sharing information shortly about confessions available by drive-in, and on-line celebration of the Stations of the Cross. Our Catechists and PREP team are working with families to continue the faith formation for our youngsters.

We have launched a **parish crisis food assistance program**. We invite anyone in the parish who needs help to call us at the rectory at 610-642-0938. In particular, if you are elderly or at particular risk due to underlying medical issues and you are unable **to get necessary groceries, please call the rectory. Our dedicated staff will obtain the needed food - shopping for you and bringing it to your door.** We want everyone to stay safe and have all necessities during this crisis.

Third, **We need your financial support!** Our parish depends upon your Sunday contributions. We have been without funding over the past two weeks

and I suspect the current situation of restrictions may preclude us from gathering for a few more Sundays. **Please consider on-line giving. Please go to our website: sjvgladwyne.com/egiving.** You can make your weekly contribution or one-time contribution; you can make your offering by credit card, debit card, or bank account number. It is a safe and professionally secured service now used by thousands of congregants in hundreds of Catholic churches. If you need assistance, call the rectory leave you name and telephone number and we return your call with assistance. **You and your support make a difference!**

Understandably, some parishioners might have difficulty accessing technology; another option would be to mail in your weekly envelopes directly to the parish office. The proper address is Saint John Vianney Parish Office, 1110 Vaughan Lane, Gladwyne, PA 19035. Your US letter carrier will pick up your mail from your own mailbox.

Of the over 80 images employed in Sacred Scripture to capture the mystery and mission of the Church, I think the image of the Church put forth by Saint Paul as the "Mystical Body of Christ" is most illustrative at this moment. The image of one body with many parts illustrates both our interconnectedness and our unity. As Saint Paul says, "If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honored, all the parts share its joy" (1 Cor. 12:26). Let us be there for each other, not only when everything is going well, but in moments like these, where we struggle together as one family, the Body of Christ.

I am grateful for my work to serve you as your pastor and I thank you for your generosity and support. Your goodness and charitable witness continue to be a source of hope for all.

I remain your humble servant and parish priest in our Lord Jesus Christ,
Fr. Bill Donovan, Pastor