

Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish

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3/17/20

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ;

The Corona Virus (COVID-19) has changed drastically and suddenly our work, school, and worship schedule. The Church has faced crises in the past, forced to adjust Her method of care of the faithful. As we find ourselves confined to our homes, we remember that the early Church, often under threat and force, celebrated the Eucharist in people's homes.

To this end, following the guidance and advice of our shepherd Archbishop Pérez, I am offering these practices to help us through these distressing times:

- Watch Mass on television or the internet. EWTN (ewtn.com) has a daily Mass, as does **CatholicTV** (<http://www.catholicTV.org/masses/catholicTV-mass>).
- Do the stations of the cross at home. You can find the stations on *YouTube* by searching "Stations of the Cross Catholic," or using your pamphlets.
- Use Lenten Daily Reflections and spiritual exercises, printed or on the internet.
- Reach out to family or friends via phone, internet, social network sites, or other video/audio platforms such as *Facetime* and *ZOOM*.
- Keep in touch with national and Church news (catholicphilly.com).

Lent is an incredible time for the outpouring of God's grace. As Saint Peter Chrysologus said, "Fasting is the soul of prayer, almsgiving the lifeblood of fasting." God will not abandon us. Let us not abandon our spiritual practices nor our brothers and sisters in need.

In Christ the Redeemer,

Francis D. Maloney, C.Ss.R.

Pastor