

Checking In...

Thursday, March 19th, 2020

Beloved Brothers and Sisters, Christ's dear ones,

The Blessing of the Lord Jesus, the Physician of our souls and bodies, be with you all!

I'm writing from the church, where I've just prayed a Service of Intercession on behalf of all our parishioners, your families and loved ones, and, indeed, on behalf of all throughout the world who are experiencing the widespread effects of the current health crisis. It is my plan to pray for you before the Holy Altar each and every day until we are able to gather again to celebrate the Holy and Sacred Liturgy.

Until we resume our usual schedule of Services, I ask that you continue to pray at least twice each day the prayer which has already been distributed and is posted on our parish website. Additionally, please check our website for links to livestreamed Divine Services and other prayer resources (sspeterpaulaz.org.) Although we are unable to pray together at this time, we can and should pray for one another—and prayer is essential for all of us in these strange and difficult days.

Yesterday, His Eminence Archbishop BENJAMIN sent a letter to all of the priests and deacons of our Diocese. In that letter, he expressed his love and support for all the clergy who, with you and like you, are struggling under the weight of the reality we are all facing. He also encouraged our clergy to reach out to one another. He writes:

“It is important, indeed, it is essential, that we all pray for one another. It is also vital that you maintain your own spiritual life as you face the new challenges of caring for your flocks. Also essential to alleviating the stress, tensions, and uncertainties of this temporary situation is the support you are able to give to one another. ‘Social distancing,’ of which we hear so much, should really be understood as physical distancing. It is not intended to convey a sense of social isolation. No one among our faithful or among the brotherhood of priests should be allowed to fall into a spirit of loneliness or isolation. I especially pray that none of you will feel alone in this time and hope that you will also see to it that none of your brothers feel alone, isolated, or overcome by the weight and gravity of the present realities.”

I want to join His Eminence in emphasizing the importance of reaching out to one another so that no one feels alone or isolated. I encourage you to be in contact with at least three to five of your fellow parishioners each day, either by phone or email or texting. As His Eminence says, “social distancing” is not to meant to be social isolation. Please remain connected to the Lord by remaining connected with your brothers and sisters.

As I previously conveyed to you, the clergy of our parish remain at your service. Be assured that they join me in praying for you, your families, and all your dear ones.

With love in the Lord,

+Bishop Daniel

(PLEASE NOTE: If you didn't receive my previous email and are receiving this, it is due to the fact that my parish email list was somehow corrupted and I have just been able to update it now. Thank you for your patience.)