



March 17, 2020

Dear Friends,

As I hope you have heard in response to coronavirus concerns the Diocese of Phoenix has indefinitely suspended all activities, events and liturgies of all diocesan entities until further notice. The bishop has also removed the obligation to attend Mass on Sunday during this time, but we should make every effort to keep the Lord's Day holy through personal and family prayer, Scripture and other devotional practices.

While the Mass televised or livestreamed is a vicarious connection, it is a way to stay connected to the Catholic community. I strongly urge gathering the members of your household together on Sunday for some prayer experience. Our parish staff is working on ways to stay connected during this period of social and ecclesial isolation.

Check the parish website (www.olvstr.net) for updates and information as it is available.

The parish bulletin will continue to be published and posted on the parish website.

During this time we will maintain parish office hours at both churches. After assessing that need, we may adjust those hours.

Again, these details will be posted on the parish website.

For the wellbeing of all concerned, we will suspend Holy Communion to the homebound until further notice. While we will continue to address the need for funerals as needed, we will restrict participation on funeral liturgies according to the prevailing guidelines from the CDC and other agencies. These will be lean times for us all, but we hope you will continue to support the mission of the church which continues despite the current restrictions.

Know of my prayer for the people of Our Lady of the Valley and St. Raphael, and I ask that you join me in praying for all impacted by CoVid-19 and that this worldwide health crisis may subside quickly.

God Bless!

Fr. Ed Kaminski, CSC
Pastor