



# St. Anthony Parish

314 South 4th Street | 425-255-3132  
Renton, Washington 98057

Dear Friends,

Just a quick note to encourage you in these days. Our lives have been disrupted from the regular routine of work and school. God willing, we will be back to normal soon. Until then, we have a new normal.

Archbishop Etienne has emphasized that the Church has not abandoned you. We want you to know that we are still here for you. If there are any emergencies, don't hesitate to call the parish or the emergency phone. Currently, we have someone from the administrative team in the office to answer phone calls each day. If it is after hours, we have the emergency phone to respond to you. During the day, the church will be open from 12-2pm and 5-7pm daily. We are also hearing confessions at the regular confession times. If you want to talk with a priest, either give us a call or come to the parish if you are able. Fr. Bazil or myself will be in the church at the designated times when it is open to be able to receive you. We are sanitizing the church regularly and practicing social distancing to be safe.

As you establish the routine in your family, I encourage you to keep the school days as such for the children and to have a regular time for wake-up, breakfast, schoolwork, chores, etc. Perhaps, the most essential part of the routine that we can establish and solidify in these days is the routine of prayer. As I was driving to the Carmelite convent to celebrate Mass this week on Tuesday morning, it occurred to me that many families are experiencing a kind of forced cloistering right now. I know that it takes a good amount of time for a nun to adjust to the life of the cloister and how much more our families. Yet, the family is the domestic church and it is there that we can learn so much in these days, especially how to prioritize our relationship with God and our family above everything else.

In order to keep the relationship alive with the parish, we are starting to livestream the Mass today with our inaugural celebration for the Solemnity of St. Joseph at 7:30pm. On Sunday, we will be celebrating the Mass in English at 9am and in Español a las 11. We have established a YouTube account where you can connect to the daily life of the parish while you are cloistered at home. Pope Francis is calling on us to be creative in our ministries and this is something new for me. I have also begun to post videos to reflect on what's happening and to share information. Just go to the parish website and click on the link to subscribe and watch the videos or join us for Mass. Although it is not the same as attending the Mass, we can make a spiritual communion and participate in the liturgy. In these days, when we can't physically receive the Eucharist, it is an opportunity for us to grow in our appreciation of the gift and our desire to be close to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Stay tuned on the website and YouTube channel for more opportunities to stay engaged in the life of the parish.

Another great resource in these days is Formed.org. You have free access through the parish to all kinds of good material to entertain and engage the family in these days. If you are not signed up, go to the parish website to log on.

These are just a few thoughts as we begin to get used to this new routine. May St. Joseph, pillar of families, guide us and protect us.

With Jesus, Mary, and Joseph,

**Fr. Jack D. Shrum**