



ST. THOMAS MORE

*Go and make disciples*

Dear Parish Family Members,

We have entered a truly unique time in the history of our country, our state, and especially our Church and our Faith. As you may know, as of Friday, March 13, all bishops of our state of Colorado have suspended public Masses and other faith gatherings due to the ongoing effort to contain and inhibit the spread of the novel coronavirus, Covid-19.

Having gone through the first Sunday in my life where people couldn't gather for Mass (even in the blizzard of 1983 we had some folks who were able to ski or snow shoe to Mass) I realize we are all in new territory. As such I wanted to share a few thoughts and references with you.

First of all, I will say time and again, know that the Lord is with you. I pray you hear clearly in your heart and your mind the phrase that is so often in the scriptures, and was often repeated by Pope St. John Paul II, "Be not afraid." If the Lord is with us, we need not fear. And if we feel we have drifted away from the Lord, what better time than Lent to return to His providential presence.

Although you will not have an ability to attend Mass at a church, we are currently livestreaming the daily Mass at 7:00AM and a weekend Mass at 10:30AM via the parish Facebook page. I am still learning about the ins and outs of this, but even if you are not a Facebook subscriber, you are able to see Mass both while it is live-streaming and after it is recorded.

The Church will then be open with the Blessed Sacrament out for adoration from 8:00AM until 9:00PM on weekdays, and noon until 9:00PM on Sundays. There will be lots of space to come and spend time with the Lord, and not worry about being too near the others that are there. Please come and use this special gift during these days.

At the present, we are asking those who wish to go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation to make an appointment to come in and meet with one of the priests in the office during the week. We will not have specific confession times.

We are currently maintaining parish office hours, although they might be shortened in the coming weeks. But it is always best to call if you can to get answers to your questions. The parish phone number is 303.770.1155.

The best way to keep up with what is happening is to visit our parish website, follow us on Facebook and through Flocknote emails. If you are not on our Flocknote email list, this would be a good time to do so. See the information on how to access each of these with the accompanying email.

There is going to be an economic effect for this event throughout the world. That will be true even for our parish. Hopefully you have been connected through Faith Direct in the past to make your tithe available through e-giving. If you are not, you can do that now and I would strongly encourage you to do so. I have been doing it ever since arriving in the parish and it is very easy and comforting to know that I am supporting our needs this way. Another way you might donate is to text-to-give. Simply text the \$ amount you wish to donate to 720.619.8959. And you can still mail in your donation envelopes or bring them by the office if you so desire. But it is definitely easier if you give your tithe online.

That said, I wish to thank you for your stewardship, your generosity and your faith lived out. This is true financially, but also with your prayers and offers of assistance in so many ways. Please be assured of the daily remembrance and prayers of myself and the other priests and deacons for all the members of our faith family. Pray for us that we will meet wisely and well the needs of our community and those God brings to our attention.

One final reflection. The thing most used in conversations, thoughts and reflections, and even prayers at this time is the term "coronavirus." I don't know if you are aware that the term corona is Latin for crown. In this time of Lent, as we normally are moving our heart and mind to the passion, death and resurrection of our Lord, we are reminded every time we look at the crucifix of the crown of thorns on our Savior's head. He was willing to undergo the painful acceptance of that torturous insult out of love for you and me. Perhaps we can accept the limitations, the sacrifices, the opportunities to recognize a different call to faith and prayerfulness as a sharing in the passion of our Lord. The age old adage of wisdom: "Offer it up" is a good reminder that nothing needs to be without grace in the overall work of our God.

God bless you and keep you always.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Monsignor Thomas Fryar". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Monsignor Thomas Fryar