



# ST. PETER THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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In this time of confusion and uncertainty with the Coronavirus, I wanted to reach out to all of you. I know many are scared, not knowing what lies ahead and wondering where God is in all of this.

God is with us. He is our Father, but not just any Father. He is infinite love, goodness, compassion, mercy, and everything that is good. He cannot will anything bad because He is goodness itself. He cannot do evil. While He did not will the Coronavirus, God would not allow it to happen unless good could come of it.

What good can come of it? The restrictions of the past week have brought to mind a greater appreciation of the many gifts God has given us: the sacredness of life; the sacrifice of the Holy Mass and Him giving Himself to us in the Eucharist each and every day; our liberties – being able to go anywhere we choose, whenever we want, to gather with others; spending time with our families; the abundance of food and resources He has given us.

Although difficult and challenging, this is a time to be grateful. God is giving us the opportunity to stop the busyness of our life and a time to grow in deeper relationship with God and our family. He is getting us in touch with our unselfishness as we think about others and put their safety before what we want to do. He is bringing us together as His family as we make others a priority and think about how we can help the unfortunate facing economic challenges. It is not a time of fear, but of heroes and saints who strive for the common good of all. It is a time of prayer for our families, friends, parish, state, nation and the world.

We can make a difference. We can offer up inconveniences of changed or canceled plans and the challenges of the day. We can check on neighbors with a friendly phone call. We can spend time with our children helping with their studies and participating in family activities. We can spend more time in prayer to God, saying the Rosary and offering spiritual Communion. Our prayers are heard. And, just as in times past, they can and will stop pestilence by turning to God in his mercy and turning away from sin.

With God all things are possible! Three hundred and sixty-five times God tells us not to be afraid in the Bible. Let us trust in God's goodness. We will get through this challenge. Let us support each other with our prayers and pray for an end to this virus and to gather again soon at the Eucharistic table.

I have received many phone calls of concern asking about the well-being of others in our parish community as well as about the parish finances and expenses. To my great surprise, this week I found many envelopes with weekly donations at the office. Many thanks to those of you who have kept us in mind and continue to support the parish financially during this very surreal and trying time. With no Sunday collections, we do need your support now more than ever. If possible, you can mail your check or drop off your donation at the office by sliding it under the glass windows to the front office. If you are interested in donating by e-basket, please contact Deacon Ron at 630-773-1272, ext. 204.

As a reminder, the parish website ([www.stpeteritasca.com](http://www.stpeteritasca.com)) will be continually updated to reflect changes during this fluid time. The website also has resources available for daily Mass, prayer and requests for assistance.

You are all in my daily Mass intentions and prayers.

Thank you and God bless you.

*Fr. Stawek*