

Dear Brothers and Sister in Christ,

This time of trial is a first for all of us. Yet, St. Francis of Assisi is a beautiful faith community and that will not change ...even if we cannot physically gather together as usual.

*"Be on your guard;
stand firm in the faith;
be courageous;*

As your Pastor, my primary role is to provide for your spiritual and pastoral needs. Adapting our parish norms to accommodate these needs is stressful and challenging, and I thank you for your patience, as we put new plans in place.

Therefore, we will continue together in ministry, outreach and service, in Christ's name as follows:

- *Daily Prayer*—While we cannot hold mass or any large gathering, we will offer individual prayer time in the Church with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 9:00am-4:00pm daily. *Please remember to maintain proper social distancing.* Continue to pray for one another and reach out to those who may be isolated or afraid.
- *Confessions* are available. Just call ahead and come to the parish office.
- The daily bag lunches and Wednesday take-out dinners for the needy will continue as usual.

- *Celebrating Mass* -Fr. Bibin and I will celebrate and live-stream the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass through our parish Face Book page, as follows:

Weekdays 8:00am

Saturday Vigil: 4.30 pm English, 6.30 pm Spanish

Sunday 9:00 am English

Not gathering for Mass will be difficult for many, but we will remain strong in our faith and even strengthen it through our families with on-line mass attendance, at-home prayers and devotions.

May we never again take the Eucharist for granted!

- *Connecting with each other*— Great support information is available on line. We encourage you to visit our website at www.stfrancisc.com, our parish Face Book page https://www.facebook.com/stfrancisc/?epa=SEARCH_BOX and the Diocese website at www.dosp.org to find resources for prayer and information, opportunities to access assistance or locate ways you can help. We will be adding new resources regularly, since we want to be the place where our people can connect. Let's work together to create opportunities for virtual events, prayer groups and idea sharing!

Yes, this is a difficult, unsettling time. Sacrifice is required by all of us all for the greater good. Be assured of my constant prayers. Let us move forward together cautiously and prayerfully with what God has put before us. Please remember, we are called to pray, serve and give, even in times of difficulty. Take care of your families and loved ones above all else, but please do not forget that our ability to continue offering ministry here at St. Francis of Assisi is tied to the generosity of our people. If you are able, please continue making offertory gifts, either by online options at <https://www.osvonlinegiving.com/679> or by mailing a check to our parish office at: PO Box 1218, Seffner FL- 33583.

Thank you for your continued charity which binds our faith community, as we promote the Gospel and build His Kingdom.

In the Peace of Christ,

Fr. Edison Bernavas IC, Pastor