

Dear Parishioner(s),

We are living in strange and challenging times. I have never in my 40 years of priesthood experienced anything like this. I miss celebrating Mass with you present. Live streaming is just NOT the same. I hope that you are all well. Please know that you and your families are in my prayers every day.

I hope that you have been able to watch our Saint Jude live-stream of Sunday Mass, Weekday Mass, Stations of the Cross and Monday evening prayer. If you have not yet found them, they are on our website www.stjudenh.com and on our parish Facebook page. I will be live-streaming Sunday Mass at 10 am on Sunday mornings and weekday Mass on Tuesdays at 8 am. The Diocese also has links to resources and prayer opportunities on their website at www.catholicnh.org/coronavirus.

Holy Week and Easter are nearly here. While I wish we could gather in person to celebrate the holiest week of the year together, we will have to be together in spirit. I invite you to join the Church in prayer in your home, because as you know it will not be possible in the church building. We will be live-streaming Holy Week and Easter liturgies. Please join in prayer, and take comfort in knowing that God hears our prayers whether we are in the pews or in our living rooms. The Palm Sunday Mass will be live-streamed at 10 am. The palms will not be blessed at that time and there will be no distribution of palms until after the crisis has abated. Confessions will be heard Friday from 5-6 pm and Monday, April 6 from 11 am – 1 pm and from 5 pm – 7 pm. If this changes, I will post a notice on the front doors of the church. Holy Thursday Mass will be live-streamed at 7 pm, Good Friday Stations of the Cross and Veneration of the Cross will be recorded and posted on YouTube and our Facebook page. The Easter Mass will be live-streamed on Easter Sunday at 10 am and posted later that day.

On a more worldly matter, if the Covid-19 crisis has left you in financial hardship because of job loss or medical needs, please contact our parish office by calling 432-3333 or by email at sgreen@stjudenh.com. The generosity of our parishioners has built up our Outreach account so that we are able to help those in need in our community. Even in this time of crisis, we have the funds to provide assistance. Our food pantry is stocked and we are ready to help. Please call 434-1827 if you need food assistance. I suspect that many of you have never asked for help in your life, but no one has ever been through a situation like Covid-19. When so many businesses cannot function in their normal capacity, it is bound to cause financial struggles and tremendous anxiety for many families.

If the Covid-19 crisis has not taken a financial toll on your family, I ask you to help our parish. Our online giving is helping us to meet our financial obligations, but our weekend offertory is down by over 80%. The best solution for this is to have more people sign up for online giving. This can be done through our parish website. If you have questions, please contact the parish office. If you do not want to give online, please consider sending your contributions through the mail.

To be clear, our Outreach account cannot be used for operating expenses. Outreach funds are restricted by IRS regulation, and can only be used for our parish food pantry expenses, charitable contributions, or to help those in need.

We don't know how long we will all be isolated at home, but I am looking forward to a wonderful celebration at Saint Jude when we open the church doors and welcome you all back!

In God's love and peace,

Fr. Bob