

May the peace of the Risen Christ be with you and your families during this unprecedented time.

While we can't physically be together each of us is still part of an amazing family of faith called the Catholic Church. May we be the witness of courage, kindness and selfless acts of love that foster community, help those in need and encourage those we encounter to grow stronger in their faith and relationship with Jesus Christ. Through this framework here are some ways we can care for ourselves and the people of God entrusted to our care:

+ Find a virtual Mass to participate in at CatholicMassOnline.org

- Listen to our Catholic radio station, Spirit FM 90.5 on smart devices, in your car or online at myspiritfm.com
- Reach out with a phone call to homebound neighbors and local Nursing Home residents to accompany them in spirit
- **†** Visit **dosp.org/helpothers** to discover new opportunities to give in Christ's name

- Visit your parish website often for updates, virtual formation and continue your financial support as you are able
- + For those who are able to fulfill their commitment, we appreciate and give thanks as we strive to continue to serve our parishes and the people of God.
- * We understand finances may be fragile for some during this worldwide health crisis. If you find your circumstances have changed, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Catholics have always joined together in prayer during times of plague throughout the ages. Let us do the same today, loving God and neighbor.

May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake. May we who have no risk factors remember those most vulnerable. May we who have the luxury of working from home remember those who must choose between preserving their health and making their rent. May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close remember those who have no options. May we who have to cancel our trips remember those who have no safe place to go. May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market remember those who have no margin at all. May we who settle in for a quarantine at home remember those who have no home. As fear grips our country, let us choose love. And during this time when we may not be able to physically wrap our arms around each other, let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors. Amen.

2020 Annual Pastoral Appeal Diocese of St. Peterburg

WE ARE SALT & LIGHT

