

## A FEW WORDS FROM OUR PASTOR

I pray this letter finds you and your loved ones safe and healthy and trying your best at practicing social distancing and not exposing yourself to large crowds during this time of challenge and uncertainty. As I write this letter, the coronavirus continues to spread at an alarming rate around the world, the United States, and particularly right here in New York City. I realize many of us are frightened and all of us are trying our best to follow the directives from the CDC, our governor and our mayor. We have all at some point watched their daily news conferences and we are trying our best to make it through uncharted waters. In the past week, I have met many of you as I walk through the neighborhood, shop in Steve's C-Town or Key Food or Russo's. We all share the same sentiment – we miss our daily routines in Park Slope and our spiritual life at Saint Saviour Parish! Until we meet again in church and resume our daily and weekly schedule, please continue to remember in your prayers all our first-responders, our doctors, nurses, home health care providers, and all those persons who have contracted COVID-19. Let us pray in a special way for all those who have passed away from this virus, that the Lord will grant them eternal rest, and let us pray for the family members who are mourning the loss of their loved ones.

As most of you are already aware, many dioceses here in the United States have suspended the celebration of public Mass indefinitely until further notice – this includes all churches within the Diocese of Brooklyn and Queens. Sadly, this means that there will be no public celebration of Holy Week or Easter Sunday here at Saint Saviour Church. You will find within the pages of this week's parish bulletin a complete schedule of ALL televised Masses throughout the Diocese of Brooklyn being celebrated privately at the Cathedral. We hope you will find it helpful as you celebrate Holy Week this year. In addition, please be aware that ALL funerals and weddings have been suspended until further notice throughout the entire Diocese of Brooklyn and Queens. Our celebrations of First Holy Communion and Confirmation here at Saint Saviour are being indefinitely postponed until further notice. Finally, our Bishop has asked that ALL Rectories and Churches remain CLOSED until this pandemic passes. All business with the Rectory will be conducted by phone only. Please DO NOT come to the Rectory. If you need to conduct any business with us at the Rectory, our Administrative Assistant, Emily SanPietro, and our Pastoral Associate, Sister Mary Walsh, CSJ, will be available in the Rectory on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10:00am until 2:00pm.

Finally, I would kindly ask all the members of our parish family to please try your best to continue submitting your weekly offering envelopes if you are financially able to do so. Simply drop your offering envelope in the Rectory Mailbox. For those of you who do not have envelopes, you can place your donation in a regular envelope and simply write "Weekly Offering – Father Frank" on it. I am so grateful to all our parishioners who dropped their envelopes in the mailbox last week. Some of you blew me away with your generosity in this difficult time – and for that I am both humbled and deeply appreciative. I was so happy to hear Vice President Pence say last week during a press conference that people shouldn't forget their weekly offerings to their churches – as we rely solely on our Sunday offerings to make ends meet.

Let us continue to pray for one another during these difficult days, and ask the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe to bring an end to this pandemic as quickly as possible.

*Father Frank*