

**Saint Leo the Great Parish**  
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Thursday, April 9, 2020

Dear parishioners of St. Leo the Great Parish,

Once again, I trust in the Lord's goodness and care for your lives during this time of pandemic and pray for you each morning at 7:30 am with our livestreamed celebration of the Mass. I also remember you in my daily rosaries, asking the intercession of Our Blessed Mother on you and your families as you live each day with this drastic change and alteration that has effected all our lives. God can be trusted, as you know from your faith experience of Him, so I urge you to continue in your faithful living out and witness of your life before Him. My mother used to say, "Fear knocked on the door. Faith answered the door and there was no one there".

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the response of our parishioners to my recent appeal in the ongoing financial support of the parish. Many people have made contributions dropped off at the outside office mailbox, some have increased their PAG and others have made one-time additional donations which really assists the parish in our ongoing need to 'pay the bills'.

While there are many other '*special collections*' in your envelope boxes as charities also ask for your help and generosity, I would simply underline our need and ask you to make St. Leo the Great and our weekly collection your top priority in giving as "Charity begins at home", as the old saying goes. As we don't know how long the closing of our parish church will last we need to pay our bills, salaries and the ongoing expenses of an edifice such as ours.

Know that we have implemented all of the Archdiocesan suggestions and then some in keeping the costs of the parish at this time to a low. We have turned off the water for both safety and savings and only turn it on periodically, as needed. All heat and heaters have been turned off and only the parking lot lights on timers are regularly on for night time safety and security at specific times. Our security system ably monitors the church when no one is there and the firm we are with are fast in their response time and alerts to us if needed for both fire and security.

I have been heartened by the good news stories that have come out of these strange times such as parishioners calling people from the parish who may be alone or in a shared ministry with them to make sure they are alright or to offer any assistance. While the celebration of Mass each day to an assembly of empty pews in a silent church moves my heart to miss you all, when I look into the dark center of the camera lens I think of and see all of you in your homes and on your phones and know that I am with you as you are with me. That may sound a tad syrupy but it's true. I look forward to seeing you all again as in my prayers I pray for your safety, health and spiritual well-being in this week that is Holy.

Blessings!

*Fr. Charles*