

Dear Parish Family,

Being separated from public Mass is hard. I'm sure many of you agree, especially during Holy Week. Being separated from our daily activities and just staying at home has also been really hard. It is easy to become demoralized. I find I have to turn off the news because watching it just makes things worse. But you know what, this desert type experience is drawing me in closer to God. As I was praying, I was reminded of the scripture passage from the letter of Paul to the Romans, and it says:

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

(Romans 8:38-39)

Despite our social distancing, we can always draw in closer to God. That intimacy is always there for us no matter what our situation is. That spiritual closeness with God is something that we can hold together in common with each other. It is that hope and love that comes from God that can help us get through these difficult times.

At this time, I also must bring up a delicate situation: Because we are not having public Masses, we are not taking up a Sunday collection. We still have a building to maintain, and employees to pay. So I just wanted to remind you that you can mail in your Sunday envelope to the parish office:

**St. John Neumann Church
44800 Warren Rd.
Canton, MI 48187**

or pay online at our St. John Neumann website:

sjncanton.org.

And hopefully when we are able to finally reopen our doors, we will be able to take off running as we renew and reenergize the faithful to serve God and our community.

*God Bless,
Fr. Paul Ballien*