

March 18, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

During this time of caution in preventing the spread of the Corona virus, let us consider the reflection and prayers of Archbishop José H. Gomez, president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, “*With the worldwide outbreak of the coronavirus, we are confronted once more with the fragility of our lives, and again we are reminded of our common humanity — that the peoples of this world are our brothers and sisters, that we are all one family under God.*”

*God does not abandon us, he goes with us even now in this time of trial and testing. In this moment, it is important for us to anchor our hearts in the hope that we have in Jesus Christ. Now is the time to intensify our prayers and sacrifices for the love of God and the love of our neighbor. Let us draw closer to one another in our love for him, and rediscover the things that truly matter in our lives.”*

As Masses throughout the Diocese are suspended, please know that I will remember you in my private celebration of daily Mass, and I ask for your continued prayers. I encourage you to participate in Mass by viewing it on TV or livestream. You will find a listing of options on the *Courier’s* Website at <https://catholiccourier.com/articles/list-of-parishes-with-live-streams-available>. And please visit our parish website <https://www.stlawrencegreeceny.org> for daily updates and to stay in touch.

This is also a good time to remind ourselves of the important principles of stewardship, which will keep our parish vibrant during this difficult time. Through stewardship, we thank God for all our blessings by returning to God a portion of the time, talent, and treasure given to us. Your financial support of St. Lawrence Church is vitally important, perhaps more important than ever, during this period of uncertainty. Even though you will not attend Mass physically or be able to place your envelope in the collection basket, our financial obligations as a faith community will continue.

I humbly request that you maintain your weekly offering to St. Lawrence Parish through one of the following methods:

- Use the parish’s online giving portal WeShare.
  - <https://stlawrencegreeceny.weshareonline.org/>
  - Click on Make a Donation under St. Lawrence Sunday Collection.
  - Then choose One Time Donation, or Recurring Donation, if applicable.
- Set up an electronic funds transfer (EFT) from your bank to the church/parish account.
  - You may establish an automatic payment with your bank through its online banking function. Please contact your bank for more details.
- Mail your check to:
  - St. Lawrence Church, 1000 N. Greece Road, Rochester, NY 14626
  - Please include your name, address and envelope number with your check.
  - Kindly do not mail cash.

If you wish to make your gift to the CMA online, you may visit [www.dor.org/cma](http://www.dor.org/cma). You may also text your CMA gift. Please go to [www.dor.org/giving/text-to-give](http://www.dor.org/giving/text-to-give) for more details.

Thank you for your prayers. And thank you for your continued and ongoing stewardship and generosity to our parish community and our Diocese. We will get through this challenging time together.

Respectfully yours in Christ,

Father Lee Chase