

# Daily Message from Msgr. Dennis...

Saturday, March 28, 2020



Good Day to you Dear Parishioners:

**Yesterday, Friday, March 27**, Pope Francis held a **beautiful but stark prayer service from the Vatican**, offering the world a Plenary Indulgence in response to the COVID-19 virus afflicting the world right now. It was an eerie sight to see St. Peter's Square completely empty. Pouring rain added to the somber nature of the service as the Holy Father walked by himself up the steps to the gathering space in front of St. Peter's. Sheltered by a structure placed there to protect him from the elements during the outdoor Papal Audiences he stood alone, except for an aide, to listen to the scriptures and pray. The gospel passage chosen was that of the Storm at Sea (Mark 4:35-41) and he reflected on how we find ourselves in similar dire straits today. However, Pope Francis told us, we should not be afraid because even though it appears we are in danger of drowning Jesus is with us, calms the storms of our lives and assures us of our salvation if we just have faith in Him. He reminds us of what is truly important in our lives and his words offered us comfort, faith, strength and peace. He also encouraged us that in response to the temptations to despair that the evil one throws at us he said: "Prayer and quiet service: These are our victorious weapons." After his homily the Holy Father moved into the Basilica for a time of quiet prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament, after which he returned to the main entrance and blessed the whole world with monstrance in hand. It was a deeply, spiritually moving hour of prayer and intercession asking our good God to cure the world of this present scourge. May God hear our prayers, led by the Holy Father, and end this scourge soon.

Fr. Niru and I, with the help of a few others, have gotten the hang of **live-streaming and recording**. Last evening we live-streamed Stations of the Cross at 7:00 p.m. Starting with this morning we live-streamed and recorded daily Mass. Beginning Monday we will live-stream daily Mass at 8:00 a.m. which will also be recorded for later viewing. Tomorrow, Sunday, March 29, we will live-stream Sunday Mass at 10:00 a.m. Again, it will be recorded for later viewing for those who wish. We are grateful to those who have volunteered to help us with this liturgy. To find the services go to [www.sanrafaelparish.org/liturgy](http://www.sanrafaelparish.org/liturgy) and click on videos, or to the same address, click on "Resources" then click on Facebook, then click on videos. We have had hundreds of people viewing so far!

**New directives have come out regarding confession.** Fr. Niru and I will continue to hear confessions on Saturday, 3:15 pm. – 4:30 p.m. and again this coming Wednesday from 6 p.m. – 7 p.m. for those who wish. **HOWEVER**, "confessions are to be held in expansive places." Penitents are not to kneel or confess face to face with the priest but must confess standing up, separated by a screen. This means 3 feet away from the screen as the priest will be 3 feet away on the other side. Msgr. Dennis will hear confessions in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Fr. Niru will hear confessions behind the altar in the main body of the church. **ALWAYS, PLEASE, MAINTAIN SAFE SOCIAL DISTANCING WHILE WAITING FOR CONFESSION.**

**Because of the live-streaming of daily Mass at 8:00 a.m. starting Monday the church will be opened for private prayer from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.** How I wish we could open earlier and invite you join us for Mass but, as you well know, that can't be done at the present time.

"The love of Christ impels us ..." (2 Cor. 5:14)

Monsignor Dennis Mikulanis  
Very Rev. Msgr. Dennis L. Mikulanis, S.T.D.  
Pastor

**A little humor:** We thought we'd have flying cars by 2020. But no, here we are teaching people how to wash their hands!"