

My dear brothers and sisters,

Peace and all good!

In Psalm 62, the Psalmist reminds us:

*My soul, be at rest in God alone, from whom comes my hope.*

*God alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not fall.*

*My deliverance and honor are with God, my strong rock; my refuge is with God.*

*Trust God at all times, my people!*

*Pour out your hearts to God our refuge!*

During this very difficult time, I invite all of us to trust wholeheartedly in God, who is our rock and our refuge. God will not abandon us in our need! More than ever, we are called to have a profound faith in God who loves us and cares for us.

I know that these last few weeks have been extremely challenging, stressful, and even frightening. Our anxiety and fears are normal and we should expect them at a time like this. They are not signs of a lack of faith or trust in God. They are part and parcel of being human. I think we need to be gentle with ourselves. Befriend our worries and fears but don't give into them. We are people of faith and hope. God will get us through this.

At the same time we need to count on one another for support and help even if these can only be given at a distance. One of the most frustrating thing about this crisis is that it has forced us to live apart from one another and even to forgo the deep communion we share with one another when we gather for Eucharist. Many parishioners have stated that the worse thing about this crisis is the inability to celebrate Mass as the visible Body of Christ and to eat and drink His Body and Blood. As a priest, celebrating Mass without the community of faith present is a cross to bear. I suppose that the fact that this is happening during the season of Lent reminds us that we are called to follow Christ in carrying the cross. But, as you well know, every Good Friday is followed by Easter Sunday! Let us look forward longingly to that day when we will all gather together again in our beautiful Church to celebrate with joy the Eucharist which is both a source of our unity and the visible sign that we are Christ's mystical Body here on earth.

I want you to know that you are constantly on our minds and in our hearts as we celebrate Mass and as we pray for an end to this horrible pandemic. As St. Paul stated in one of his letters, "we pray unceasingly for you." As we go through this time of trial together, please join us spiritually by viewing and praying the Mass with us via our live streaming.

Finally, let us stay connected to one another. I invite you to reach out to one another by phone, email, text, and social media. Take out our parish directory. Look at the faces pictured there – our fellow parishioners. Call someone you know or don't know and let them know you care. Pray together, offer each other a sign of peace through the telephone line.

We value and love each of you. We want to keep you updated as often as we can because so much changes day to day. May God, whose love and mercy are infinite bless you and keep you healthy and safe. May God bless you, In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Fr. John

# Our Campus

## THE CHURCH AND THE OUTSIDE GROUNDS:

Our Church will be open for our parishioners to come and pray. Please enter through the front doors only. All other entrances will be locked. Please use your best judgment and your best social distancing skills. Bring your own hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes if possible. Please feel free to stroll the campus and sit in our beautiful outdoor spaces. As we have told you before, this is your home, and we want you to feel as welcome as we possibly can in these uncertain times. However, we do ask you to use extreme caution and continue to follow guidelines issued by health organizations such as the CDC and WHO.

## CLASSROOMS, MEETING AREAS, AND OUR OFFICES:

All of these areas will be closed and locked. No one will be allowed to meet on the campus until further notice. Our parish offices and religious education offices are closing until further notice effective at the close of business on March 20, 2020. Our staff will be working from home; please contact them by email. You can find a listing of our emails at <https://www.stphilipbenizi.org/staff>

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS:

All Stations of the Cross are cancelled. Please use the resources attached in both English and Spanish to pray the Stations at home.

# Live-Streamed Masses

## SUNDAY:

Our Friars will celebrate Mass at 10:00 A.M. in English and at 12:00 PM in Spanish every Sunday which will be live-streamed; these Masses are NOT OPEN TO PARISHIONERS. You are invited to follow these Masses from your home and with your family at <http://bit.ly/2tz1lzt>. Use the Prayer for Spiritual Communion found at the end of this document.

### **WEEKDAYS:**

Our Friars will also celebrate Mass privately Monday through Saturday at 8:30 A.M. in English and at 7:30 P.M. in Spanish Monday through Friday; these Masses are NOT OPEN TO PARISHIONERS. You are invited to follow these Masses from your home and with your family at <http://bit.ly/2tz1lzt>.

## **Sacraments**

### **BAPTISMS:**

Infant Baptisms are suspended until further notice.

### **FIRST EUCHARIST/CONFIRMATION:**

An update will be communicated to all parishioners on First Eucharist and Confirmation.

### **TRIDUUM/EASTER:**

An update will be communicated to all parishioners on the coming Easter Celebrations: Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, and Easter Sunday.

We hope that the Easter Masses will continue as planned; if so, Father John will need volunteers for the Parking Ministry (directing traffic and driving golf carts). The shifts available are 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM, 9:30 AM-12:00 PM, and 12 PM – 3 PM, and ten (10) people are needed for each shift. If you can volunteer, contact Father John at [frjkoziol@stphilipbenizi.org](mailto:frjkoziol@stphilipbenizi.org).

### **VISITATION OF THE SICK:**

According to the Archdiocese of Atlanta: “In-person visits to the homebound and elderly should be discontinued for the time being. This includes visits to healthcare, nursing, and assisted living facilities.”

### **ANOINTING OF THE SICK:**

If a loved one is in danger of death, please contact the office to speak with a priest [(770) 478-0178.]

### **RECONCILIATION:**

Due to its confidential nature, confessions through the phones and other social media is NOT allowed. God forgives you when you are sincerely contrite and seek His mercy. When Confession is not possible, you may pray the Act of Contrition.

**O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins because of thy just punishments, but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, who art all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve with the help of Thy grace to sin no more and to avoid the near occasion of sin. Amen.**

### **MARRIAGES AND FUNERALS:**

Weddings and funerals will be limited to immediate family only with no in-parish receptions allowed right now.

## **Other**

### **REGARDING ARCHBISHOP HARTMAYER'S INSTALLATION (FROM REV. JOEL M. KONZEN):**

Friends in Christ,

Even as we continue to rejoice in the Holy Father's appointment of The Most Reverend Gregory J. Hartmayer, OFM Conv, as the seventh Archbishop of Atlanta, we do so cognizant of how the Church and the world have so radically changed since the day of that joyful announcement.

Recognizing that the people of God of the Archdiocese have been without a shepherd for a year, Archbishop-designate Hartmayer has humbly asked that his Mass of Installation commence as scheduled at 12:30 p.m. on May 6, but that it be held privately so that he may begin his service here without delay. A private vespers service will be held at 7:00 p.m. on May 5. Both events will be livestreamed. We will provide a link to the livestream closer to the date.

A joy-filled public celebration of his installation will be held at an appropriate time. We will release details at a later date.

Yours in Jesus and Mary,  
The Most Rev. Joel M. Konzen, S.M.  
Diocesan Administrator

## GIVING:

We understand the economic hardships this pandemic is causing to the cash-flow and lifesavings of many families. However, if you are in a position to give a contribution to our community we encourage you to consider doing this spiritual practice of “giving” to St. Philip Benizi Catholic Church. We are grateful for the generosity of all of our parishioners. Here are some ways that you can continue to support your Church during this very difficult time.

- Register and give through online giving at [www.stphilipbenizi.org](http://www.stphilipbenizi.org) or use the QR code below.
- Set up online bill pay through your financial institution. Checks should be made payable to St. Philip Benizi at 591 Flint River Road, Jonesboro, GA 30238. (Please include your envelope number in the memo section.)
- Mail donations to St. Philip Benizi at 591 Flint River Road, Jonesboro, GA 30238. (Please do not send cash in the mail. *Checks or Money Orders only.*)



**Read Updates from the Archdiocese of Atlanta  
at <https://archatl.com/covid-19/>.**

# A Prayer in the Time of the Coronavirus Pandemic

*Good and Gracious God,*

*Be with us and bless us during this time of trial and anxiety. Keep us mindful of all members of our human family around the world who experience the reality of the Coronavirus.*

*May your Spirit be with and guide healthcare professionals, researchers, and all institutional leaders who are responding to this crisis.*

*May your grace and consolation be with all who are suffering the effects of COVID-19. We ask that your power and love be with those who have contracted this virus. For those who have died, may they rest in peace.*

*Please console their loved ones who remain.*

*Help us to remain healthy in body, mind, and spirit. Give us the grace we need to remain calm and hopeful. Show us how to bolster and enliven one another during these days of disrupted routine. Show us what to read and watch so that our souls are nurtured, our minds and hearts enriched. Help us take time for meaningful conversations and to find ways to recreate and rest.*

*Good and loving God, during these Sacred Days of Lent, may our prayer draw us confidently closer to your Son and to a deeper appreciation for his example during a time of difficulty. May we be healthy, holy, hopeful, and always compassionately concerned for the well-being and welfare of others.*

*We ask all this through Christ Our Lord.*

***Amen.***

*(by Rev. Joseph E. Ligan, S.J.)*

# A Prayer of Spiritual Communion

**(PRAY AT COMMUNION TIME WHEN YOU WATCH OUR LIVE-STREAMED  
MASSES.)**

**Dear Jesus,**

**I (we) believe that you suffered, died, and rose from death to save us.**

**I (we) believe that you are fully present  
in the bread that is blessed and broken,  
and the wine that is blessed and poured out  
in the sacrament of the Eucharist.**

**Renew in me (us) your sacrificial presence,  
and let me (us) be united with you at this moment,  
So that, in all my (our) thoughts, words, and actions,  
I (we) may represent you, and love others as you love me.**

**Amen.**