

May 13th, 2020

Dear friends,

Happy Easter and blessings on this memorial of Our Lady of Fatima! A special greeting, too, to all the mothers of our community. You are remembered at all our Masses this week as we continue through our Mother's Day novena.

This month begins the extension of Washington State's 'Stay Home, Stay Healthy' initiative, alongside the unveiling of a four-phase plan to re-open the state and its businesses. I'm sure I wasn't alone in feeling, well, all the feelings at the governor's press conference. I think we're quite naturally disappointed at the limitations that continue, anxious about the material, spiritual & economic effects on our lives, and worried for how we can best care for those who are most vulnerable among our friends, families, and neighbors.

If you haven't already, please take some time to watch [Archbishop Etienne's message to the people of the Archdiocese](https://vimeo.com/416006936) (<https://vimeo.com/416006936>). His first point for us is to focus on Jesus, to make the Lord a priority, to be aware of His presence and His message. How we need this reminder! The pressure cooker of our current circumstances, of living all day in our homes, of reading the latest news, of interacting with so many & so much emotion on social media can stir up the worst temptations in our minds and hearts.

To the archbishop's encouragement, I would add this: go to Mary! We are blessed to have been entrusted to the sacred heart of Mary – by her Son Himself, even as He was suffering on the cross: "Behold your Mother". How often as children we rushed into our mother's arms when we had a scraped knee, our feelings were wounded, or to petition her for the latest object of our heart's desire. Mary's motherhood is also offered to us to assist us in these and so many ways. The [rosary](#), [Marian hymns](#), or even [Marian consecration](#) are ways we can turn to her from wherever we may be.

I would also like to invite you to a new weekday live stream that I am starting. Unlike the Saturday noon live Q&A (which will continue on!), this live stream will be more catechetically oriented. My desire is to join with you in exploring various aspects of our Catholic faith. I will spend some time presenting on various topics and then open the remainder of the time for questions & answers about the theme of the week. Our first one will be **this Friday, May 15th at 3pm**. We will be talking about the Church & daily prayer, especially focusing on the history & practice of the Liturgy of the Hours and the rosary. Anyone can view the stream at the [parish Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/saintmarkshoreline) (www.facebook.com/saintmarkshoreline), though you must be logged in to ask questions.

You all are remembered daily at the third mystery of my daily rosary, as well as at Mass – particularly our Sunday Mass. Please don't hesitate to reach out (call the office at (206) 364-7900 – my extension is 101) if I can help you more particularly, especially for confession! In the meantime, let us continue to place our trust in the Lord, who continues to guide us to Himself.

Yours in Christ,
Father Maurer