



A Message from Fr. John Ozella –

Monday, March 23, 2020

All of us on staff miss seeing you, because we strengthen our faith through our contacts with each other and really do cheer each other on in our struggles. We pray, as I'm sure you do, that this pandemic will end as soon as possible.

We appreciate your prayers. We also really need your financial support to continue to keep our parish family together – it has drastically fallen off. Only your sacrificial offerings make this parish family viable and preserve your “other” home to nurture your faith. Please continue to mail in your offerings (our address is 1708 Horseshoe Dr., Pueblo CO 81001) or better yet start making your gift online through our parish website at www.ctkpueblo.org (on the “Online Giving” tab). We have eliminated our drop-off box for donations due to lack of security – Mary is no longer at the office every day.

When I arrived here three years ago there was no financial cushion left. The bank account was like \$50,000. I have been doing my best to build up our savings, but with our 60-year old buildings, capital equipment keeps failing and has to be replaced, so we aren't getting ahead.

I have reserved the money needed to pay off our Chiller that will be installed in about three weeks, but with the current decrease in Collection funds, there's not enough remaining in our operating account to meet our payroll.

As a result, it is with deep regret that I have been forced to make a 50% pay reduction for our staff and myself, starting Monday, March 23rd. I will reassess this decision in April. Church employees cannot collect unemployment benefits so I don't want to go there, and neither should you.

We have kept the office “virtually” open to receive phone calls and emails (no walk-ins). This week we'll be “open” on Tuesday and Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Governor Polis is asking businesses and organizations to transition to 100% telecommuting, and we'll be gravitating towards that.

I am offering a private Mass daily at home, including Mondays. Any Mass intentions that were scheduled will be rescheduled once the coronavirus pandemic has subsided and we can gather again.

Our team is still Amazing, and you'll see this as we continue to provide as many resources as possible to keep nurturing your faith in Jesus Christ. What we are going through now unites us even more to the spirit of Lent. The powerful image of Christ crucified can move us to join our own sufferings during our coronavirus experience to His, and help further the salvation of the world. They are another way we participate in the mystery of His cross and become more like Him. This makes the prospect of our resurrections all the more delicious!

The Amazing Parish family of Christ the King is resilient and will get through this. Even in the current darkness, celebrate this *Laetare* week, Rejoice week, knowing our present sufferings are just part of the road to resurrection. Don't look back – look ahead! The best is yet to come!

Extending Christ's blessings, I am your temporarily “virtual” Pastor,

Fr. John O.