



Dear St. Michael's parish family and friends in Christ,

It is my prayer and hope that this letter finds you all safe and at peace. I know this may be a time of restlessness and uncertainty for many of us living in these times. Having our church liturgies suspended also causes many of us to feel isolated from Christ, His Church, and our faith community. However, let us remember, that there is nothing that can separate us from the love of God and the Body of Christ for those who love Him and seek to do His will.

During this time I would like to encourage you by asking all who read this to continue with your daily faith life, first by prayer, the reading of scripture, especially the Gospels, and your devotional exercises: the daily Rosary, Stations of the Cross, Akathists, etc. And let those who are able, remember to continue with their fasting.

We all must not let the current situation keep us away from our duties as faithful Christians. By keeping the Great Fast holy, we will please and honor our Lord, make reparation for those who do not love and honor Him, win mercy and graces for ourselves and our family, and help to secure our place with Him and the saints forever in heaven.

For my part, I will continue with the daily offering of the Holy Sacrifice of the Divine Liturgy for all of your needs, along with all I have recommended above. Please call me on my cell phone (217)690-5423 for any encouragement, spiritual questions, or prayer requests you may need.

Finally, I ask all of you to kindly remember St. Michael's in your financial responsibilities. During this time of closures we are still required to pay our bills. We, as a very small parish, are always struggling to keep our church doors open and so I sincerely appreciate and urge you to continue to support us at this time of financial need, and I thank you in advance for your support.

Through Christ, our true God, His precious and life giving Cross, the prayers of the Most Holy Mother of God, Mary, and of all the Saints may God bless you all!

Fr. Ronald Hilt