



5205 A1A South
St. Augustine, FL 32080
904-471-5364
www.saccfl.org

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Peace be with you!

The current circumstances remind me of Psalm 22:

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

Why so far from my call for help, from my cries of anguish?

My God, I call by day, but you do not answer;

by night, but I have no relief.

You are the glory of Israel.

In you our fathers trusted;

they trusted and you rescued them.

To you they cried out and they escaped;

in you they trusted and were not disappointed.

Do not stay far from me, for trouble is near, and there is no one to help.

The Lord has not abandoned us. The Lord is at work. I have never experienced a time when the entire world has come together to help one another like it is now. All of God's children throughout the world (including those who are not Christian) are united to fight COVID-19. There may be finger pointing, hoarding and selfishness in places but overall we are united. How can this not be the hand of God working to save His people?

The Lord tells us to love our neighbor. All the sacrifices we are making are out of love for our neighbors who are vulnerable. These Lenten sacrifices are pleasing to the Lord. We began Lent thinking that by giving up something such as coffee or chocolate we might come closer to the Lord. We end Lent by actually coming closer through loving one another (especially the most vulnerable in society) in concrete and real ways. The Lord says in Matthew 25, "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine,



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you did for me.” This unexpected pandemic may lead us to have the most powerful and spiritually rewarding Lent ever.

It is with an outpouring of care, concern and consideration regarding the potential spread of the coronavirus that Bishop Estèvez has suspended all public Masses in the Diocese of St. Augustine until March 31. The Bishop has dispensed the faithful from their Sunday Mass obligation for the remainder of the month and possibly longer. Please see the Bishop's letter on our website under " From the Pastor." Please be assured that the Mass intentions you have requested at St. Anastasia will be offered and said by me on the date requested. I invite you to make a spiritual communion several times a day. Refer to the "From the Pastor" for more information on spiritual communion.

All recurring and ongoing Parish meetings and events will be cancelled through March 31. The Communal Penance service scheduled for April 1 is also cancelled. The Lenten Fish Fry scheduled for Friday, March 20 will be TAKE OUT ONLY and will be our last fish fry of this season.

The Church will be open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon for individual prayer. Eucharistic Adoration will take place Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Please adhere to the directive for a maximum capacity of 10 parishioners at a time. Stations of the Cross booklets and St. Theresè Novena booklets are available by the Baptismal font for your personal prayer. Please leave them in the Church.

The Parish office will remain open Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. Please continue to check our website, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter @stanastasiacc for updates, changes and opportunities for spiritual support.

Thank you for your understanding, patience and perseverance during this time. I will continue to keep each of you and your families in my prayers, trusting and believing in the loving providence of our Lord, Jesus Christ and in the intercession of our Blessed Mother.

Saints Joseph, Patrick and Anastasia pray for us!

Love, Fr. Tim