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COVID-19 & Cod-Thru

Dear Friends in Christ,

I am writing with an update, a thank you, and a suggestion.

First, the update. Please make note of the most recent change from the Diocese of Arlington regarding Mass attendance. It is the same as yesterday's, with the significant exception of one addition (in italics):

Until further notice, Bishop Burbidge has granted dispensation from the Sunday Mass obligation for those segments of the community who are most vulnerable to the effects of coronavirus (those who are 60 years old or older, have chronic illness, or immune system deficiencies), those who care for a person with such a condition, *and individuals with concerns about being in public gatherings*. Those who are exempted should check with their parish or the diocesan website regularly for updates.

In short, we will keep our regular Mass schedule. However, I also ask that you use your best judgment regarding attendance and know that you are dispensed from the obligation if you have concerns about being in public gatherings at this time.

Second, thank you...to Tim Aubry and his team for running the Fish Fry Cod-Thru. It was clearly a big hit. The cars were spilling out of the parking lot into the street. I began to worry about causing traffic problems! May God reward the generosity of Tim and his volunteers.

Third, prayer. One great thing about being Catholic is that in our history we have seen almost everything. Epidemics (plagues, in the old days) are no exception. During the plague in Rome in the 6th century the intercessor that proved effective was Saint Michael the Archangel. So, following that lead, please use the prayer below to invoke his intercession as we bring our faith and prayers to bear in this crisis.

Through the intercession of our Lady and Saint James, may the Lord bless you and keep you safe.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Scalia

*Saint Michael the Archangel,
defend us in battle.
Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil;
May God rebuke him, we humbly pray;
And do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host,
by the power of God,
cast into hell Satan and all evil spirits
who wander through the world for the ruin of souls.
Amen.*



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