

March 23, 2020

Dear Parishioners, good afternoon,

I wanted to send these notices to you concerning the Corona virus and something positive. I hope and pray that you and your families are well. We have been receiving lots of news, mostly bad about the virus.

Today we received some good news from Mt. Athos that you may want to pass along to those who do not receive our email notices. Some may already know this. The monks on Mt. Athos are praying every night from 10:00pm to 10:15pm the Jesus prayer for the entire world,

“Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy upon your world” with their prayer ropes. We are asked to pray also in our respective time zones from 10pm – 10:15pm with this prayer.

Also we received this from Greece, as well. I translated this verbatim from the Greek from what they wrote from Mt. Athos:

“Friday 3/27/2020 at 11pm the entire Mt. Athos will be doing a vigil dedicated to our Virgin Mary and to St. Haralambos for this world-wide pandemic. We ask very much that this message reach to all the Orthodox Christians so that all together this Friday we will be united with our prayers, so that our God will have mercy on us and to rid us of this evil.”

This is so appropriate. We, Orthodox Christians know how to pray, and know that with our prayers, God will hopefully hear us. Of course, He expects our repentance and commitment to changing our lives. This is not just for Mt. Athos to pray but all of us because this affects all of us, the entire world. Lord have mercy on us.

I have also attached different prayers that can be said at different times during the day, if you wish. They are prayers for the protection of the coronavirus and prayers to St. Nikephoros the Leper who has appeared and has told that he will be our protector for this illness. Please pray to Him. In the last part is a litany that we will use as a Community to pray to the Lord.

I am sorry that I cannot be in Church these days. I miss the services and seeing all of you. As you know, we have the mandate from the Metropolis of Pittsburgh that persons over 65 should not come to Church including clergy, chantors, and other lay persons etc., So I am unable to attend. I would like to thank Fr. Aaron for conducting the services. Please go to the Church’s website: www.holytrinityhbg.org and press the red button to connect you with the live streaming and see all the services. This is a special time to reflect and pray for each other, our Community, our state, our country and the entire world. Please be vigilant and listen to the mandates given by authorities. And above all be safe.

May the Lord’s blessings be with all of you,

Fr. Michael Varvarelis