



Our Lady of Grace Parish  
18700 North Saint Gabriel Way  
Maricopa, Arizona 85138



### A Letter from the Pastor

Hi Everybody,

I hope you are well. I pray for Our Lady of Grace Parish and parishioners every day at Mass.

The corona virus shut down is stressful in many ways. I miss seeing everybody at Mass, but I realize how blessed I am to be able to say Mass every day. Prayer is always helpful! Please try praying the daily Mass readings as a family every day. Also, consider reading the New Testament for ten minutes daily—a suggested approach:

- 1) Place a bookmark at the beginning of the Gospel of Matthew.
- 2) Place another bookmark at the beginning of the Acts of Apostles.
- 3) Prayerfully read one chapter a day from each place with a bookmark. Continue on with the gospels to the end of John, and then begin over with Matthew. When you finish the Acts of the Apostles, continue on with Romans, etc. to the end of Revelation. The first chapter of Matthew has the genealogy of Jesus, but after that, it is story.
- 4) If you want a few more minutes of biblical prayer, place another bookmark in Psalms and read through the psalms prayerfully.
- 5) If you want even more time with the Bible, read the book of Genesis, which is mostly story. The last part of Genesis is the story of Joseph and is a small novel in itself. Consider looking for a biblical timeline so you can get an idea of when each person lived. You might want to continue on with Exodus and the story of Moses.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support the parish through prayer and their weekly offerings—it is encouraging and reduces the stress!

Ways we are saving money:

- Our employees have graciously accepted a substantial cut in hours and pay.
- We have reduced our landscape maintenance contract expenses almost in half. The contractor is still maintaining the front of the church and around the office building at a reduced price, but our parish maintenance man will be maintaining other areas for the time being.
- We are keeping the church air conditioning off even though the church is open for private prayer—it seems comfortable enough, but we will continuously evaluate the need.
- We canceled our order of hosts for the time being. We normally spend \$117/month on hosts. We order from the Cistercian Sisters who support themselves by making hosts, so we have told them to still invoice us for \$50/month.
- We're using fewer candles and less incense, etc.
- We continue to do charitable outreach through monthly donations to the local food bank and a women's crisis center.

Many costs to run the parish continue as before. Our monthly mortgage is about \$19,000. Office building rental is \$1,000 per month. Property taxes accrue at about \$1,500 per month, property and liability insurance is roughly \$1,000 per month. That comes out to \$22,500 a month or **\$5,625 per week just to mention a few expenses, and that is even before we turn on a light!** Once again, thank you for your continued support. The Diocese of Tucson is checking into short-term mortgage relief for us by requesting the option of paying only interest. The Diocese is also looking into the federal government's CARES Act which includes relief for small business to see if our parishes qualify.

If you have not signed up for WeShare, you may go to our website and click on the WeShare icon or you may mail in your contribution to the Parish Office.

God bless you,  
Fr. Jay Luczak

*P.S. EWTN founder Mother Angelica had a clever saying to remind viewers to mail their donations in support of her growing network: "Keep us between your gas and electric bill."*