



SAINTS CONSTANTINE AND HELEN GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Dear Friends,

I greet you in the Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

We all live unprecedented times of trouble and crisis. In times like this, the world needs steady people who are strengthened by God's grace and selfless by God's power. Throughout history, Christians have often stood out because they were willing to help the sick even during plagues, pandemics, and persecutions. While we leave the medical care to medical professionals, we all can do something!

Worry is common to man. But God has called us to face troubles and threats with courage, leaning on Him. As a church family, we're responding to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) crisis, not by panicking out of fear, but by continuing that which is our most important mission: serving God and His people.

If you need help, we want to say that we love you and we care about you! Our goal during this crisis is to serve you however you need. Call us or email us to let us know how we can serve you!

Above all, the community of Saints Constantine and Helen should continue to pray, both from church through the voice of your priest and from home through all of your voices. We are to pray for those who are affected by this virus and for their healing, for the doctors and the medical professionals who are on the front lines caring for those who contract the disease, for the medical researchers who are diligently working to create a vaccine for the virus, we should pray also for our leaders in office, including the president, vice-president, governors and local officials as they guide us through this crisis.

But also, I urge all of us individually to respond with thoughtfulness, wisdom and love, so that the church continues its mission to proclaim and advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

As you can imagine, the church will be deeply affected financially during this time. Both the donations received during services and the income from our banquet hall will stop. I know that some of you will be affected as well. Nevertheless, we ask those of you who can, to try and make an extra effort to support your church during this time.

We did not send you the usual Holy Week schedule. That will be determined as we get closer but rest assured that all the services will take place and you will be able to participate, either in the church, if through God's grace things get better, or by accessing our webcam at <https://www.stcons.org/video-streaming>

No matter how frustrating, confusing, or scary this crisis gets, fear doesn't have the final say. 1 John 4:18 says, *"There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear."* Our hope is built on the perfect love of Jesus Christ, so we've been called to share that love with the world. And that's exactly what we will continue to do in the coming weeks.

We wish you a blessed Easter and please be safe!
Blessings in Christ,

Fr. Teodor Petrutiu