

Updated March 19, 2020

Hello, everyone.

**STANDING STRONG IN OUR FAITH:**

In many ways this type of an event is unprecedented for most of us, even those of us who have “seen a lot!” Of all the things our nation has been through, this seems new and particularly scary. The very fact that we are able to see the danger and take the kind of actions we are presently taking is a solid reason for remaining calm and grateful. Both we and previous generations have been through epidemics and even pandemics, but were not able to catch onto what was happening for a far longer period of time. Our ability to catch on and respond, while it may seem to have taken a long time, actually is quite rapid in an historical context. Maybe the one thing that we share with our ancestors who lacked our 21<sup>st</sup> century tools is our faith. Whatever they went through, whether world wars or the depression, or serious flu, they stood strong in their faith. We know that the Lord walks before us and with us no matter what happens. As Jesus says in Carol Young’s writings, “Anxiety is envisioning the future without Me.” There is, of course, no future without Him. Hold fast to His Love, His faith in you, and His care for you, and together we will get through this. All will be well, and all will be well (Julian of Norwich).

**GETTING HELP IF NEEDED – HEALTY CONNECTIONS**

If you need some help during this time of mostly staying home, know that our parish has a plan for that! Healthy Connections has been around for several years – it is a program that connects parishioners needing help with other parishioners willing to provide help. If you find that you need some vital groceries and can’t get to the store.....if you’d like someone to talk to or pray with.....connect with Kathy Carpenter at kvsull@gmail.com and let her know what you need. (Lorraine Bossi is also a connection during the summer months, but she is in FL at this time.) If you’d like to know more about Healthy Connections here is a direct link to the webpage, which you can also reach from the Member Menu of our website: <https://stmaryofmagdalachurch.org/healthyconnection.html>

Blessings,

The Pastoral Team, Marie, Jim, Ann, Kathy R, Kathy C

The Parish Chair, Mary Jane Bender