

Dear Parish Family,

You are probably receiving a lot of 'helpful' emails from various organizations about their response to COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Please be vigilant against scammers. They capitalize on moments like this. DO NOT *presume* the email is from a trusted source. Instead, first check to see who really sent it by hovering your cursor mouse over their name. If you recognize their email address, like 'connie@stmonicami.org', then it is usually from the sender you know and trust. If, however, it says something like 'kamal.obegon123@fooledyou.ca', mark it as SPAM and delete it because it is SCAM SPAM (also known as PHISHING)! Also, don't just click on the hyperlinks they provide in the email even if you do trust the sender. Instead, right click on the link and select 'Copy Hyperlink.' Then open your browser and paste the link in its menu bar. That way your browser will warn you if it is not a TRUSTED site.

Having now warned you, let's do a practice run here. Please hover your cursor over the sender name 'St. Monica Parish.' Wait for it to show you the email address. It should say, 'connie@stmonicami.org.' That's because Connie Anastasi is our media and communications staff person. If you don't know Connie, please make a point to stop by the office some time and say hello. You'll be glad you met her.

Now, below are two resources I am providing you for your use and consideration. First, the publishers of the Magnificat are offering complimentary (aka free) access to their online version. It contains the Sunday and daily Mass readings and prayers as well as much more. I *highly* recommend it. Second, Fr. Jim Johnson, Pastor of St. Jude's in Redmond, sent me the other link below. It is a news story from the Northwest Progress, dated Friday, October 18, 1918, titled, "Father Heelan Influenza Victim." It tells a bit of what happened around here just over a hundred years ago. When you read it, you'll see that suspending Masses and exercising extreme caution is not unprecedented. At the same time, however, it's good to know priests were ministering to souls even in the face of mortal peril. That's still true today. I am trained, equipped, and ready to anoint and pray with anyone suffering from the Coronavirus. Thankfully, we are not fighting a world war, just one with nature. It will end eventually. What we do now for a few weeks will decide if that end is sooner or later.

More to come and always faithfully yours,

Fr. Freitag

P.S. Even though we all love and trust Connie, I still want you to right click, copy, and paste the hyperlinks below into your web browser as a matter of good computer hygiene. A good father is always looking to the safety of his children.

<https://us.magnificat.net/free>

<https://washingtondigitalnewspapers.org/?a=d&d=CATHNWP19181018.2.4&srpos=8>