

St. Mary's Romanian Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Dioceses of Canada

The "Priest's Page"

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Some Thoughts on COVID-19

Isaiah 26:20

"Go, my people, enter your rooms and shut your doors behind you. Hide yourselves a little while until the wrath has passed".

Throughout history the world has gone through many trials and COVID-19 is one of the most difficult challenges anyone living has had to endure. This pandemic has caught us, some say, unaware. This one is unique in spite of some parallels with others. Each one of us and all of us together, will be tested. All of us are afraid and anxious. Different people will face this trial differently.

All levels of government are setting certain rules for us to follow, and we should follow them, for they are good and will help bring down that "bubble" so institutions are not overwhelmed by the sheer numbers of sick. It is important that we follow the directions given to us by civic and medical authorities. Keep your "social distance" from others. Stay healthy, we don't want to be a carrier. COVID-19 has no regard for age.... we are all susceptible to this pandemic.



Isaiah, the Prophet spoke to the Children of Israel regarding the wrath upon the people of his time and urged them to stay in their homes. Clint Eastwood, the actor and producer when asked, how he was able to go on working at his age, replied, "Don't Let The Old Man in"! The virus in this case is "the old man".... Don't let him in. We need to heed Jesus' urgings and to pray for strength to assist those who are in need and not as fortunate as us. Assisting others may be difficult but necessary. We need to assist them however we can.

In view of the great danger ahead of us regarding the gathering of people, I have cancelled all church services including Resurrection Service at Easter until further notice. For any emergency please call, text, or email me.

The Boian Ladies Club and Church Board Meetings scheduled for April 6 and 7, 2020 respectively, have also been cancelled.

I have added a prayer for those of you who wish to join in prayer for the passing of this "wrath".

Keep well and be strong in faith.
God be with you all!
Fr. Mircea

Those who understand Romanian may go to www.mmb.ro (Mitropolia Moldovei si Bucovinei) and scroll down to March 18th for the video and words of His Eminence Metropolitan Teofan.

Please share this prayer with anyone you think may want/need it.



Let us Pray to the Lord.
Lord have mercy.

Lord our God, You who are rich in mercy, and with careful wisdom direct our lives, listen to our prayer, receive our repentance for our sins, bring an end to this new infectious disease, this new epidemic, just as you averted the punishment of your people in the time of David the King.

You who are the Doctor of our souls and bodies, grant restored health to those who have been seized by this illness, raising them from their bed of suffering, so that they might glorify You, Merciful Savior, and to those who are healthy keep them from every sickness.

By your grace, Lord, bless, strengthen, and preserve, all those who out of love and sacrifice care for the sick, either in their homes or in the hospitals. Remove all sickness and suffering from your people, and teach us to value life and health as gifts from You.

Give us Your peace, O God, and fill our hearts with unflinching faith in Your protection, hope in Your help, and love for You and our neighbour.

For Yours it is to have mercy on us and save us, O our God, and to You we give glory: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever, to the ages of ages.

Amen.

Here are some **Orthodox Links** which might be of interest to you;

The Romanian Orthodox Metropolis of the Americas www.metropolia.us

The Romanian Orthodox Diocese of Canada www.episcopia.ca

The Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada ww.uocc.ca