

## **A LETTER FROM FR. CHRIS**

**In this time of global pandemic and personal isolation, I want you to know that you are never far from my thoughts and prayers. Even though we are prevented from seeing each other in person at Mass, one thing we know for sure is that God is constantly with us. His closeness to us is the one constant in our lives, the one thing of which we can always be certain.**

**While public Masses in the Diocese have been suspended until at least April 30<sup>th</sup>, I continue to celebrate Mass privately each day fulfilling all the Mass intentions. I also remember all of you, especially those most vulnerable in our community, as well as those most affected by this pandemic – those who have died, our health care workers and first responders who risk their lives caring for the sick, and all essential workers.**

**Since you are unable to attend Mass, it is important to stay connected to our faith. St. Stephen is open every day from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm for private prayer in the presence of Christ in the tabernacle (\*\*please remember to practice “social distancing” of at least six feet at all times). You might want to pray the rosary in the Mary Garden behind the Religious Education Building or pray the Stations of the Cross at our outdoor Stations in the woods behind the Church. You can also watch the Mass on television or the internet and read the Bible. Additionally, the Diocese of Bridgeport website, as well as the website for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops ([www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)), offers some excellent resources for families to practice their faith at home. St. Stephen also has a subscription to FORMED which also has some resources. Just go on to the Parish website and click on the icon at the bottom of the page, enter St. Stephen, your name and e-mail and it will bring you to the FORMED website. This is a free resource provided by St. Stephen.**

**We need God more than ever during this difficult time. However, we are a people of hope. As Psalm 23 reminds us – even though we walk in the valley of death, we fear no evil for the Lord is with us.**

**God bless and stay well.**

**Fr. Chris**

**\*\*Even though the Parish Office is closed, for emergencies, you can call the Office and leave a message. I check voicemail regularly.**