

March 29, 2020

Dear Friends,

May the Blessings of the Almighty be with all of us!

The United States, and many countries, are being greatly affected by the COVID-19 epidemic. Now, that so many of us are faced with this crisis and have feelings of isolation, it is a most fitting time to call upon God. In the present situation we cannot gather together for prayer but we can join together in prayer. We are writing to invite you to join us in prayer from wherever you are on Thursday, April 2, 2020 at 2:00 in the afternoon. We further invite you to join us every Thursday at 2:00 thereafter.

During this time, we are inviting our Christian and Jewish brothers and sisters to focus their prayer time on Psalm 23, while our Muslim brothers and sisters we invite to reflect on a text from the Qur'an, 2:255. Those of other faith traditions, please feel free to adapt a prayer or text of your own. During this time together we can pray for the victims of the virus, the first responders and medics caring for the victims, those working on a cure or a vaccination and for our leaders.

Wherever possible, those houses of worship which ring their bells to call the faithful to prayer, may wish to do so promptly at the aforementioned time. Let this serve as a public reminder and a public witness to our prayer together. We invite you to share this letter and pass it on to your neighbors, colleagues, faith leaders and public officials, regardless of their religious affiliation, asking them to do the same.

Together let us pray for our country and while doing so let us always remember to pray for each other. May God bless us all!

Most Sincerely,  
Rev. Buddy Noel  
Ecumenical/Interfaith Officer, Archdiocese of New Orleans

