

April 2020 Pastor Jaime Updates

**April 30, 2020**

Pastor Jaime's Update-Take 9

Greetings in the Name above all names! How are you this fine Thursday? I pray everyone's safe and healthy!

In the Faberille' household things continue forward. Julie, Grace and Daniel are navigating the new realities of remote learning. They are doing a great job, and an even more admirable job as helpers and assistants. I continue the process of recovery. My most recent follow up with the surgeon was two days ago. My knees seem to be responding positively to therapy. We are at the point when they should be bending to 90 degrees and I'm close to that but not quite there yet. The new goal is to be at 120 degrees by May 26. Please make that a prayer point and join us in prayer. Thanks!

It has been great to talk/email/text with so many of you. The encouragement has been unbelievable and at times, overwhelming, in a very good way. The Staff continues to do a magnificent job leading their ministries and assuming the added responsibilities the season has called for. I am eternally grateful! We continue to offer online worship every Sunday at 10 am, while also praying and diligently preparing for the time when we can be together again. Remember that this Sunday we will celebrate the Lord's Supper. We will have the small pre-packaged elements in the office. You may pick them up today from 9 am until 2 pm or tomorrow—Friday—from 9 am until 1 pm. Otherwise, you may use bread and juice at home (it does not have to be grape juice). Furthermore, we now have the new Upper Rooms at the church. You may pick those up at the office as well.

It is indeed a great time to be a church. I am glad we are in this together. Blessings to you and yours!  
Serving All. Following One,  
PJ

**Thursday, April 23, 2020**

Pastor Jaime's Update-Take 8

Good morning, brothers and sisters! I hope and pray you are healthy and safe. I was just pondering a minute ago that social distancing, although necessary and purposeful for now, sure isn't much fun. We are people of community and hope to be in community again soon!

I continue to recover. I have discovered that there are many things in life for which no shortcuts exist. This is one of them! It is simply a matter of taking each day as it comes, and hope the knees will behave well. Some days are better than others. I am learning to better manage the pain. Suffice it to say that the phrase "No Pain, No Gain" has taken on a new meaning in my life. Progress is simply painful, that's all. Yet, God has been so very faithful. My goodness, I can't possibly fathom traveling this road without the gentle mercies of the Lord. These have been expressed in a multitude of ways. The incredible patience of my wife and children has proven priceless. I owe them so much! Your prayers, cards, messages and meals--among many things--have served as on-going means of grace; as vital reminders that we are in fact a small part of a much larger body. We are beyond thankful for you! Just so you know, I see the surgeon again for follow up Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. Therapy continues twice a week.

We continue on; no stopping now. There's plenty still to be done for the Lord. Join me in prayer for our return to worship together when the time is right, and for the millions around the world--far and near--that are dealing with the brutal realities of this pandemic. We always praise God for the things He has done. We worship God for Who He is. We continue,  
Serving All. Following One.

Pastor Jaime

P.S. Thank you for joining us for virtual worship on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. and for faithfully giving to the continuing work of God at St. John's. Peace.

## **Tuesday, April 14, 2020**

Pastor Jaime's Update - Take 6

Greetings, St. John's family! It sure was great to worship "together" on Easter. Yes, it would have been great to be physically together as well, but I am thankful for the digital platforms and for technology. Pray with me that we get to be in one place at the same time soon!

I continue to recover slowly but surely. Therapy continues twice a week. I have discovered that in the days I do therapy, there isn't a whole lot of energy left to do much else. My left leg continues to lag behind a bit in the process. At this time the therapists are not concerned, but lift that up in prayer as you are able to. Thanks!

Let's continue to pray for all serving the community during these times of uncertainty. Doctors, nurses, EMTs, emergency room techs and all other first responders need and deserve our faithful prayer support.

Thank you for being the loving and caring community of faith that you are. Your on-going prayer and concern continue to be of incalculable importance to us. Stay home and be safe. We shall continue,  
Serving All. Following One.

PJ

## **Friday, April 10, 2020**

A Day to Reflect

Greetings, St. John's family. As we observe Good Friday, I want to invite you to...reflect. For sure, there has to be a cause to reflect upon. I want to offer two: the suffering of Jesus, and the multitude of reasons we have to be thankful.

See, I believe that both of these causes serve pivotal roles in our journeys of faith. The suffering of Christ serves to remind us that we live in a broken world and that Jesus came into the brokenness of this world to bring hope. In our suffering, pain, and struggle we can relate and pray to a Savior that's not a stranger to these realities.

In relating to God through Jesus, we then realize the multitude of reasons we have to be thankful. In the midst of a global pandemic and in times of crisis closer to home, we are met by Jesus in profound ways. Take time TODAY to pray, to search the Word, and even to partake in the Lord's Supper with the elements provided by the church. You will then be prepared to rejoice in the Lord's resurrection on Sunday.

Join us then at 10:00 a.m. for a glorious digital worship experience by going to our website ([www.stjohns-sarasota.com](http://www.stjohns-sarasota.com)). Until then...reflect!

Pastor Jaime

P.S. I continue to recover. Thank you for the prayers and countless expressions of love. See you Sunday!

### **Friday, April 3, 2020**

Pastor Jaime's Update - Take 5

Good morning, friends of St. John's. I pray you are well. This update will be brief. I continue to recover just fine and today at 1:15 p.m. I go for my first session of outpatient therapy. Not a lot has changed in the last few days. Some days are better than others and I am beyond thankful for your prayers and many, many expressions of love and concern. If I may add a prayer concern, please pray for my left knee in particular. It woke up angry about 3 days ago and is causing some discomfort.

I have written a reflection on holy week. In it, I have included some direction as to how we will observe the week this year. Make sure to read it. Also, do not hesitate to call the office with prayer requests or concerns. We will be glad to pray and provide any kind of support possible, even with the challenges of this season.

Continue to take good care of yourself and to observe all necessary precautions. You are very important to God and to our church family. This too shall pass in the Name of Christ. We continue, Serving All. Following One.

PJ

### **Observing Holy Week in the Midst of Chaos:**

A Pastoral Reflection

In the last couple of weeks, I have received dozens of cards, emails and text messages. I have encountered the following phrase in a handful of them: "The world is changing." What makes this remarkable is that in thousands of emails and text messages received over the last 5 years or so, no one had ever expressed these words. It warrants deeper reflection. Is the world truly changing? Of course, a simple "Yes" or "No" wouldn't satisfy, but for the sake of dialogue, let's agree that the world has indeed changed in the last few weeks. Now, this reality demands additional inquiries. Why is the world changing? How is it changing? Is change good or bad? Depending on who you are, these perceived changes may be exciting or downright scary and unwelcomed.

As the people of God, we are called, not only to assimilate what goes on around us, but to do so in a manner that attests to the work of God in our lives and in the world. Jesus urged us to remember that even though we live in the world, we are not of this world (John 15:19) So, am I implying that as we fight this global pandemic, we are able to observe this very special time of the year in the Christian faith? Not only am I implying that we ought to do so, but I am emphatically stating that this year in particular, our observation of holy week takes on a deeper meaning. Friends, if there was ever a time to proclaim the message of the empty tomb loudly and clearly, that time is NOW! As turmoil seems evident in every sector of society, as the economy collapses and as nations are assaulted by the COVID-19, Jesus Christ is Lord and He is Risen! This is the timeless truth in times of change and uncertainty.

This year we will observe Holy Week a bit differently. Join us on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. for worship by going to our website ([www.stjohns-sarasota.com](http://www.stjohns-sarasota.com)). Unfortunately, we will not host Maundy Thursday or sunrise services this year. There's always next year! As for our Prayer Walk or Prayer Stations, we have decided to offer what we consider is a viable alternative. Our amazing Staff has pre-

packaged an experience for you and your family to be able to reflect on Jesus' last few hours on earth. You may pick up your kit at the church Monday-Thursday from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. and Thursday from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. You may pick up your kit without getting out of your car. The Staff will hand it to you and you will be on your way home. The kit includes devotions, [suggestions for videos online](#), individually wrapped communion servings, a cross that is our gift to you this Easter and instructions on how to use this material. Other faith traditions are offering communion by drive-thru, and other alternatives to facilitate the observation of holy week as well. We feel that this is a safe way to go about our ministry during this season!

Yes, we long for the day when we can gather together again. Yes, we wish we did not have to navigate this unfamiliar terrain. Yes, we will get through this in the Name of Christ. And yes, we will observe the life, death and resurrection of the Lord with hearts that are filled with gratitude to God. Always remember, Because He Lives, We Can Face Tomorrow. We dare not search for the living among the dead. (Luke 24:5) He is risen. He is risen indeed! Hallelujah!

Pastor Jaime