

Greetings Everyone,

We are living through a very fluid time in history right now. It is vital for us, to keep you, our most sacred parishioners up-to-date on what is going on in and around our Church. We hope these notes are taken seriously and at least glanced through in their entirety. I assure you we have no intentions of wasting your time or attention.

For this email blast we have incorporated our current PREP and CYO list to try to reach as many of our active parishioners as possible. If you were an ancillary contact and are receiving this FlockNote in error, please either reach out to me here through the respond button at the bottom, or log onto the flocknote site and manually remove yourself. If however, we did reach you with information you would like to be kept informed about you could also visit the flocknote page and see what other "groups" we have available for the various ministries, whether it is the weekly bulletin group, or the bereavement funeral services group - just take a look.

SECOND LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

March 21, 2020

Dear Parishioner,

Last Ash Wednesday, when we began our 40 day journey through the holy season of Lent, little did we know what a difficult journey it would turn out to be personally, socially, financially, emotionally and spiritually. I hope and I pray, every day, that you and your loved ones are safe and that you will remain that way. Please know that I also celebrate my private Mass each and every day for you, the people of Saint Aedan parish.

I am deeply moved by the number of you who continue to stop by the Church to say some prayers before the Blessed Sacrament, which is always present in the tabernacle; pray the Rosary or the Stations of the Cross (books are available to keep), or pray a novena (cards available to keep), or quietly read your own spiritual reading book (pamphlet rack is available). **I am very pleased that the state has re-affirmed the importance of allowing our Churches to remain open for individual prayer even after the new rules take effect on Sunday, March 22nd.** *Yes, our Churches will continue to remain open for individuals to come in and pray.* The Rectory Office will also remain *active* in answering telephone calls, emails, regular mail business and taking care of your special needs such as IRS contribution letters, Mass cards, etc. Although, for the time being, *we will not be having anyone into the office*, you may still contact us and we will mail or leave requested documents or Mass cards in the mail basket outside the office door for you to pick up.

During these challenging times, let us Catholics remember that we are still in **THE HOLY SEASON OF LENT** which is a time of **PRAYER, FASTING and ALMSGIVING.**

PRAYER often reveals itself in many different forms. We should all pray in the morning and at night and at every opportunity in between. We should pray privately as individuals, and also as a family, before and after meals, or perhaps together for the Rosary, or to share a passage from sacred scripture. We can, as **individuals and as families**, also go online and access the many, many websites which currently offer a wide variety of spiritually enriching opportunities for us to take advantage of while many of us are at home:

<https://www.catholicfaithnetwork.org/>

<https://www.catholicfaithnetwork.org/cfn-livestream-player>

<https://www.saintpatrickscathedral.org/live>

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

<https://archny.org/catechetical-resources>

Young Adult Outreach: <https://www.facebook.com/CatholicNYC/>

FORMED: Building Better Families - Parish Code: **R7NKN8**

Arch NY: [An Unexpected kind of Lent - Coronavirus](#)

Also check the sites for [Liturgical Press <Give Us This Day>](#); Bayard [<Living With Christ>](#); USCCB – [Video Reflection](#); and many more that you can find on our website.

FASTING - Fridays of Lent are still days of abstinence (meatless) and Good Friday will be a day of fasting *and* abstinence. You may also decide to challenge yourself by adding additional practices as a part of your Lenten observance.

ALMSGIVING – Your **MITE BOX**, in support of the Catholic Community Services of Rockland, may be dropped in the receptacles in the Church vestibule or else at the Parish Office vestibule. The St. Vincent De Paul **Easter Food Drive** is being conducted as usual. Just drop your food donations, or *ShopRite cards* off at the Church vestibule or Parish Office entrance. A very special donation, at this time, would be to make an appointment to make a *blood donation* at a local blood bank because all blood drives have been cancelled and supplies of blood are *critically* short.

+++ Our Saint Aedan Church private SUNDAY AND DAILY MASSES will now be offered, online, so that, throughout this difficult time, you may enjoy Masses and homilies celebrated by your own Parish Priests. We may not be able to compete with Saint Peter's in Rome, or Saint Patrick's Cathedral but it will allow you to stay in touch with us here at home. Beginning Sunday, March 22nd, you may view our Saint Aedan Masses on our parish website www.StAedan.org, or [Facebook](#). And yes, we will still be decorating our Sanctuary with **flowers** for Holy Thursday and the great feast of Easter. You may enjoy them by a personal visit to the Church, or else when you tune in to watch our parish Masses.

As your pastor, I have always emphasized the importance of **communication**, of keeping in touch. At present, I, as your spiritual *shepherd*, am able to reach out to over a thousand of you, the *flock*, via **FLOCKNOTES**. I will try to use this resource sparingly, but when you receive one, *PLEASE open it up and read it*. If you have friends or neighbors who are **not**

receiving our emails PLEASE urge them to send their email address to our parish IT office at StaedansIT@optonline.net

Realizing that these may be financially difficult times for some of you, I wish to offer my sincerest appreciation to those of you who have been trying to keep up with your financial support of our beautiful parish. Last Sunday, March 15th we lost a \$12,000 Sunday collection, and this Sunday, March 22nd will mean the loss of another \$12,000 Sunday collection. Add another month to this and you can see how I am *more than concerned*. Although your ANNUAL contribution to the parish is traditionally divided into 52 (Sunday) payments; at present, we will not be able to “pass the basket” 52 times this year, so we need to explore some alternatives as follows.

May I ask that, those of you *who are financially able* to give, please keep sending in contribution payments on a regular basis? There are a number of ways you may send us your contributions. (1) The regular postal service is still very reliable. (2) When making a visit to the Church, you may drop your envelope, or check into the Parish Office letter slot. **OR** (3) you may join the ever-growing number of parishioners using the **WE SHARE** program whereby you use your **debit, credit card, checking** or **savings** account to have your payments sent automatically to the parish according to the schedule and in the amount you have designated. Simply (1) Click [HERE](#), or visit our parish website (www.StAedan.org) and look for the big red and white logo on the right column. (2) Select the collection, or event of your choice and (3) set up your donation or payment. *That's it!* Need HELP? You may also contact the **WE SHARE** Customer Support Team at weshare@4Lpi.com.

Much gratitude to those of you who keep up with your Renew & Rebuild payments and, of course, the now, more important than ever, Cardinal's Stewardship Appeal where more and more needy people are streaming every day.

I am grateful to our parish secretary, Fran Amendola and to Mike Donovan, our maintenance man for coming every day to serve us. I am also grateful to Rita Reers and the members of her Homebound Ministry for making calls to our homebound parishioners in order to see how they are doing, and ask if they need help with anything. I am, very grateful to those of you who have called our Parish Office to volunteer to do some shopping for our homebound parishioners at the supermarket or pharmacy. If you know of someone in need of this volunteer service, please give our Parish Office a call (845-735-7405). We also have two parishioners who are nurses, who have volunteered to reach out to those in need. This is what parish family is all about.

Please know that we priests and deacon miss you terribly. You are our *family*. We remain *on duty* and we will continue to respond to *emergencies requiring the presence of a priest* for those who need anointing at home or in the hospital. And, should it become necessary at any point during our restricted access, we are also able to conduct Christian Burial services at the cemetery. Later on, we will help you to set up a date for a Memorial Mass for your loved one.

Because the authorities are telling us that this virus is not expected to peak until about six weeks, I hope that you will agree that it was prudent of us to re-schedule our Confirmation and First Holy Communion dates until the Fall. Our new Confirmation date is Sunday, October 4th at 2 pm and 5 pm. Our new First Holy Communion date is Saturday, October 17th at 10:30 am and 1 pm. This should allow us all to look forward to and fully enjoy these special events in the lives of our children, their families and our faith community.

I will be sending out another FLOCKNOTE in a few days and will let you know how we will be handling **Holy Week and Easter** here in the parish. Meanwhile, be safe and remember to say your prayers, often. You are in our prayers ALWAYS.

Prayerfully in Christ,
Monsignor Emmet Nevin, Pastor