

S T J O S E P H ~ H O L Y T R I N I T Y C H U R C H
MARCH 22, 2020

SUNDAY, 2/22 FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

THE NEEDS AND INTENTIONS OF OUR PARISHIONERS

MONDAY, 2/23 - GREEN-PARKER FAMILY

TUESDAY, 2/24 - RUTH ANN EMMERT

WEDNESDAY, 2/25 - HAROLD HITCHENS

THURSDAY, 2/26 - SPECIAL INTENTION

FRIDAY, 2/27 - JIM HAMMER

SUNDAY, 2/29 FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

THE NEEDS AND INTENTIONS OF OUR PARISHIONERS

MARCH 15TH COLLECTION

ST. JOSEPH

EXPENSES - \$1,900.00

REC'D - \$1,382.00

HOLY TRINITY

CHURCH / SCHOOL

EXPENSES - \$4,700.00

REC'D - \$2,878.00

OFFERINGS - WE WANT TO LET ALL PARISHIONERS KNOW THAT YOUR WEEKLY OFFERING TO THE CHURCHES ARE VERY IMPORTANT AND VERY MUCH NEEDED TO KEEP THE CHURCHES AND SCHOOL IN OPERATION. DURING THIS VERY UNUSUAL TIME OF UNCERTAINTY WOULD YOU PLEASE DROP OFF YOUR ENVELOPE AT THE PARISH OFFICE MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY 9A.M. TO 12:30P.M., OR MAIL TO HOLY TRINITY CHURCH OR ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH, P.O. BOX 190, SOMERSET, OHIO 43783. THANK YOU.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PASTOR'S NOTE

PARISHIONERS, IF MOST SPORTING EVENTS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED, EVEN MARCH MADNESS, IF THE SPORTS EVENTS FOR HIGH SCHOOL AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KIDS HAVE BEEN CLOSED, IF GYMS AND REC CENTERS AND DANCE CLASSES HAVE BEEN CLOSED, AND IF EVEN RESTAURANTS AND BARS HAVE BEEN CLOSED, THEN WHAT CAN WE DO? WE CAN GO YELLING, KICKING, AND SCREAMING ABOUT HOW TERRIBLE EVERYTHING IS AND WONDER IF THE END HAS COME. WE CAN FEEL SORRY FOR OURSELVES AND WOW IS ME. THEN AGAIN WE CAN LOOK AT THIS AS A TIME OF GRACE EVEN IN SPITE OF THE HARDSHIPS. PARENTS AND CHILDREN FIND THEMSELVES SPENDING MORE TIME AT HOME SINCE THESE AVENUES OF ENTERTAINMENT HAVE BEEN CUT OFF AND PARENTS DO NOT HAVE TO SHUTTLE THEIR KIDS ALL OVER GOD'S CREATION TO SPORT GAMES OR WHEREVER AND SOCIAL GATHERINGS HAVE BEEN DISCOURAGED. THIS IS A TIME WHEN FAMILIES CAN GROW TOGETHER AND

INTERACT WITH EACH OTHER, TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER, TO ENJOY EACH OTHER'S COMPANY. INSTEAD OF A FRENETIC COMING AND GOING AT ALL HOURS OF THE DAY THE FAMILY CAN NOW SIT DOWN TO A RELAXING MEAL AND TALK WITH EACH OTHER. THE FAMILY CAN PLAY EUCHRE OR OTHER CARD GAMES. BOARD GAMES ARE A WONDERFUL CHANCE TO RELATE TO ONE ANOTHER. OF COURSE, YOUNG PEOPLE NEED TO BE DOING THEIR HOMEWORK. THE STUDENTS WILL NEED TO KNOW THEIR SUBJECT MATERIAL WHEN THEY FINALLY GET BACK TO SCHOOL. PARENTS HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO HELP THEIR CHILDREN WITH THEIR STUDIES. THESE CHILDREN SHOULD NOT BE SPENDING AND EXORBITANT TIME ON SOCIAL MEDIA OR VIDEO GAMES. THESE ISOLATE US FROM OUR FAMILIES. THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT WE CAN'T USE THESE DEVICES, BUT THAT WE SHOULDN'T BE ON THEM FOR HOURS. MOST IMPORTANTLY WE NEED TO BE PRAYING. THAT THE OHIO DIOCESES HAS SUSPENDING SUNDAY MASSES SHOWS THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE CORONAVIRUS. AT EVENING WE COULD GATHER AS A FAMILY TO PRAY THE ROSARY FOR OUR PROTECTION AND A CURE OF THIS VIRUS. THE ROSARY IS A MOST EFFICACIOUS PRAYER AND OUR LADY ALWAYS WANTS TO RESPOND TO OUR CRY FOR HELP. WITH OUR REGULAR ROUTINE TURNED UPSIDE DOWN, WE NEED TO BE LOOKING FOR THE GOOD THAT CAN COME FROM THE NEW CONDITIONS WE FIND OURSELVES IN.

WE ARE WORKING ON HAVING FR. CARMODY ONLINE SO HE CAN CELEBRATE MASS AND POSSIBLY SAYING THE ROSARY AND PRAYERS.

TO: All Priests, Deacons, Religious, Diocesan and Parish Staffs, School Principals, Seminarians

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I write to you again to speak about the many challenges we all face in light of the growing Coronavirus pandemic, which is so significantly impacting every facet of our daily lives. As you already know, the bishops of Ohio earlier this week decided to suspend the public celebration of Mass in every diocese of the state, and dispensed to the faithful from their obligation to attend Mass at least through Easter Sunday.

I cannot begin to tell you how difficult and painful this decision was, especially during the Lenten season. But, after consultation with our Governor and several health and medical officials, and faced with the stark realities regarding the spread of this virus, it became apparent that this dramatic step was critical to making sure we are doing all we can to help curtail the spread of this virus and keep our communities healthy. This extreme measure is a stark reminder of the necessity for all of us to heed the warnings of health and government officials to stay at home.

As Masses have been halted until after Easter, all other activities and events in our parishes must also be canceled or postponed to restrict contact and exposure. Many have asked about keeping our churches open for prayer, Adoration, and Reconciliation. The real answer is that you should remain home. Please understand that we as priests want to be faithful to our responsibility for the care of souls but in doing so, not to place people in danger. For the moment that means finding other ways to keep our parishioners connected and spiritually fed through the Word of God, and responding to pastoral emergencies. I implore your understanding and our shared cooperation. Trust me, I look forward to being together to celebrate the sacred mysteries of our faith. It is only under the strictest guidelines for hygiene and safety that Churches may be open for prayer and confession. Priests will try to be available or get the necessary assistance for urgent situations.

I want to leave you with this suggestion: if possible, in consideration of not only your health but the health of all those you might come in contact with, ***please make every effort to stay home*** and find other means to stay close to the Lord. This is especially true for those of us with the highest risk for complications from infection. Utilize Catholic media, TV, and St. Gabriel Radio to continue to experience the Mass. Take this opportunity to expand your prayer life. You can find links to much of this information on our website, columbuscatholic.org. As we move forward, we will continue adding resources to assist you.

Even in these challenging times, as we all continue our faith journey during Lent, all of us can engage in spiritual communion. A spiritual communion acknowledges that deep sense of loss at not being able to share the sacrament but an act of faith in Jesus' faithful presence among us as we long for the day when we might share anew in the Lord's most gracious gift.

Let us be united with ever fervent prayer even as we experience physical "social distancing". Let us beg God's help and mercy in this trying time. Indeed let us practice "extreme charity" making these sacrifices for the good of those around us and being aware of the each other's needs. We pray for all those who are afflicted by this virus or any illness, for all of us who have been impacted, and for those who labor to curb and defeat its effects and keep us safe. We offer all of our sufferings and anxiety to Our Lord Jesus, and united in faith, we pray to be refreshed by his boundless love.

Sincerely in Christ,
Most Reverend Robert J. Brennan
Bishop of Columbus

Act of Spiritual Communion

During this rather dark time in the history of the Church in the United States when we are not celebrating a public mass, you are encouraged to make a spiritual communion.

The Church encourages, even daily, Holy Communion, but if at any time we cannot go to Mass in or out of this season of the coronavirus, we can still unite ourselves to the Eucharist through making a Spiritual Communion. By making a spiritual Communion, we express our faith in Christ's Real Presence in the Eucharist and ask Him to unite himself with us. Here is the Act of Spiritual Communion written by St. Alphonsus de Liguori:

My Jesus,

I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament,

I love You above all things,

and I desire to receive You in to my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally,

come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

A PRAYER IN TIMES OF A PANDEMIC

MAY WE, WHO ARE MERELY INCONVENIENCED,
REMEMBER THOSE WHOSE LIVES ARE AT STAKE.

MAY WE, WHO HAVE NO RISK FACTORS,
REMEMBER THOSE MOST VULNERABLE.

MAY WE, WHO HAVE THE LUXURY OF WORKING FROM HOME,
REMEMBER THOSE WHO MUST CHOOSE BETWEEN
PRESERVING THEIR HEALTH OR MAKING THEIR RENT.

MAY WE, WHO HAVE THE FLEXIBILITY TO CARE FOR OUR
OWN CHILDREN WHEN THEIR SCHOOLS CLOSE,
REMEMBER THOSE WHO HAVE NO OPTIONS.

MAY WE, WHO HAVE TO CANCEL OUR TRIPS,
REMEMBER THOSE WHO HAVE NO SAFE PLACE TO GO.

MAY WE, WHO ARE LOSING OUR MARGIN MONEY IN THE
TUMULT OF THE ECONOMIC MARKET,
REMEMBER THOSE WHO HAVE NO MARGIN AT ALL.

MAY WE, WHO SETTLE IN FOR A QUARANTINE AT HOME,
REMEMBER THOSE WHO HAVE NO HOME.

AS FEAR GRIPS OUR COUNTRY, LET US CHOOSE TO LOVE.
DURING THIS TIME WHEN WE CANNOT PHYSICALLY WRAP
OUR ARMS AROUND ONE ANOTHER,

LET US FIND WAYS TO BE THE LOVING EMBRACE OF GOD
TO OUR NEIGHBORS.
AMEN

PARISHIONERS: WE ARE HERE TO HELP ANYONE IN THE PARISH WHO MIGHT NEED ERRANDS RAN OR FINANCIAL HELP DURING THIS TRYING TIME. PLEASE CALL THE PARISH OFFICE AT 743-1317.

CEMETERY NOTICE – PLEASE REMOVE ALL WINTER DECORATIONS AND PERSONAL ITEMS FROM THE ST. JOSEPH CEMETERY AND HOLY TRINITY CEMETERY BY THE END OF MARCH. THANK YOU.

FOOD PANTRY REQUEST – OUR LOCAL FOOD PANTRY AT THE SOMERSET METHODIST CHURCH IS IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS: TOOTHPASTE, DEODORANT, TOILET PAPER, HAIR SHAMPOO, AND LAUNDRY DETERGENT. DONATIONS OF THESE ITEMS CAN BE PUT IN THE CONTAINER LOCATED IN THE ENTRANCE AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH OR YOU CAN DROP OFF ITEMS AT THE FOOD PANTRY.