



St. Mary Catholic Church

Reverend Nicholas J. Adam, Pastor
3100 West Madison Avenue
Fairfield, Iowa 52556
Phone: 641.472.3179
fairfieldstmary@diodav.org

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My dear parishioners,

Without question, we are living in a time that is unprecedented and socially disruptive. The rapid spread of the Coronavirus in our country is changing our daily routines. I write to you today about the changes that especially concern us as members of St. Mary Church.

First and foremost, as directed by our diocese, (see “www.davenportdiocese.org”), we are prohibited from holding any public gatherings, including the celebration of the Mass, until further notice. This absence from Eucharist is especially heart-breaking! I pray that “absence makes the heart grow fonder” and when we can once again gather at our altar, we will receive Christ Jesus with even greater joy and gladness than ever! In the meantime, I ask that you pay close attention to our parish website at www.fairfieldstmary.org and our Facebook page [stmarychurchfairfield](https://www.facebook.com/stmarychurchfairfield). There you will find our weekly bulletin as well as any announcements that need to be shared. And if you are not currently receiving our weekly bulletins electronically, now is a good time to register to do so.

In addition to our parish websites, I also point out that there are several internet sites, including cable channel EWTN, that broadcast both, daily and Sunday Masses. Simply do a Google search for “daily Catholic Mass.” When you choose a Mass broadcast, may I suggest that, if you are a family, that you watch/pray the Mass together? In the teachings of our Church, the family home is a “domestic church.” Therefore, for those of you who are parents, this could be a time to share your Catholic faith with your children, to talk with them about the Scriptures, and to offer prayers as a family. At communion time, you might pray together an “Act of Spiritual Communion” (find this prayer on our parish webpages.) Likewise, all daily and Sunday Mass readings can be found at “www.usccb.org.” Perhaps you could consider copying/pasting/printing and reflecting together on them. Finally, if you’d like to grow in your faith by watching some Catholic movies, check out “Formed.org.”

From a practical standpoint of view, even in the face of this national call to socially distance ourselves, the financial needs of our parish have not stopped. If you are not in the practice of Automatic Withdrawal from your bank account, this might be a good time to consider enrolling in that super-easy way of helping our church financially on a regular basis. Otherwise, I ask that you please mail your weekly contributions to our parish Office.

These are indeed, troubling and overwhelming times for many of us and yet, they also provide us with an opportunity to deepen our trust in the Lord and to spend these days of Lent growing closer to him in prayer. If you want to stop by our church for a private time of prayer and reflection - - or as a family - - our doors will be open on a daily basis from 8:00 am until 7:00 pm. Together, let’s not forget that, “after every Good Friday, for those who believe, there comes an Easter Sunday!” May God bless all of you, my dear Companions in Faith!