

March 23, 2020

Greetings Beautiful folks of St. Mary's,

Today is Monday, March 23rd and boy! do I miss your smiling faces, my friends. It is a beautiful day today. The sun is peeking through the clouds and I bet if you listen closely, you can even hear the grass grow. I hope and pray that each of you had a wonderful weekend. As we embark on another week here at St. Mary's, know that each of you is greatly missed. As I look out my office window, I can see that Main Street has noticeably slowed and there is not the usual hustle and bustle of cars and pedestrians. This tells me that folks are listening to those in authority, are staying clear of groups larger than ten, and doing their best to stay home. I know this is not easy, but staying home is one of the best things we can do for ourselves and for others.

Parish life is changing rapidly and we are doing our best here at the office to adapt and overcome the many quickly arising issues. Keep in mind that the Sacrament of Reconciliation is available in the big church each week, Monday through Thursday from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and on Saturday, confessions are from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Don't forget to keep the six-foot distance rule in effect if you are waiting your turn to go into the confessional. The parish staff is working diligently to begin live streaming our Masses as well. The staff is confident that they will be able to live stream both the daily Mass, as well as the weekend Mass very soon. We will certainly keep you posted as to how this will be implemented. In the meantime, continue watching Mass on EWTN, or go to our website and find a list of online Masses that are offered.

In order to stay up with current information and parish activities, your best bet is to visit our website. There is a tremendous amount of worthwhile information on our website to be had. You can also read the bulletin online if you desire, or pick up a copy in either the small church or the office. For those of you who are continuing to make your weekly contributions, I am touched to say the least. We still have parish bills to pay and I am grateful for your continued love and support of your parish community. Many people are bringing their offering to the office or have begun using our online payment service. If you need any information on how that works, please feel free to contact Karen Pehl at the office. Karen is more than happy to answer any questions that you might have.

I thank each of you for your ongoing prayers and support during this difficult time in our country. As we continue to watch Covid-19 spread across the country, please continue with your Lenten observances of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. I ask you to please look out for those who are most vulnerable in our community. Make that call, check in with them, maybe run an errand or two for them. This is being

Christ-like to those who are most in need. Many just need a phone call in order to help with anxiety.

So let us also pray for one another and all the scientists and experts who are working around the clock for a cure. May we hold all the doctors and nurses, as well as those in the medical field who are on the front lines courageously serving the sick, in prayer.

You might be out of sight, but I am holding you closely in prayer.

In Christ Jesus,
Fr. John