

*ATTENTION! – NO PRINTED BULLETIN FOR THE WEEKEND OF MARCH 29, ...
BUT HERE IS THE EMAIL AND ATTACHMENTS SENT LAST WEEK.*

Hello all,

Here we are closing up the 4th week of Lent, and this will be a Lent I don't think we'll forget.. I know in some ways it has been a very good one despite the quarantine we are all in, I hope it is so for you as well, in terms of our faith; prayer, rest, reflection, and in this strange way – fasting- from the regular way of life we know. But as we draw near to the end of Lent, we should be looking to the glorious day of Easter! Even though we as a parish, do not yet know how we will celebrate it, it still is Easter and I hope that the meaning of it all is grounded in our hearts. Check out Father Simon's article attached.... Excellent message!

Because not much is happening around here, there isn't much news to pass on to you, but for a few things.. Diocesan Publications who print our bulletins, have been closed, except for digital copy. Because I think I've been in touch with you pretty often, I did not even submit a bulletin. In case you try to find it on the website.

A reminder that the church is open for you to visit from 9-noon each day. Office remains closed, but I still check voice mail and emails.

Although this has been in the works, it is very timely that we now have online giving available. See the attached sheet that provides simple clear directions on how to do this if you choose.

If you would like to submit names for the bulletin memorial... you can email me the information.

Have you signed up for the MyParishApp.... Go to the App Store to download and follow the clear directions. This provides info through texting.

If you, or if you have friends, neighbors or family who need help with food, please let me know. This past week, we were able to help a few families who reached out to us. Please don't hesitate.

Covid19 – Reflection 3
Lent Sunday 5
29 March, 2020 – ‘I am the Resurrection and the Life’

My dear friends in Christ,

Greetings of peace, hope and joy to each one of you!

Today, 25th March, is the feast of the **Annunciation** of the Angel to our Blessed Mother. As we honour Mary, God’s mother and our Mother, let us seek her maternal, loving and powerful intercession so that she may deliver us from all evil and keep us safe and at peace.

As Covid-19 continues to spread rather rapidly in our society, we still don’t know the long-term effect this virus will have on the physical, mental and spiritual health of people and on life in general. At the same time, this prolonged and uncertain experience that is causing so much of anxiety and fear in many people, to a lesser or greater degree, does not have to be a totally negative and dark moment in our lives. As disciples of Jesus, we can still **choose** to find strength and hope by approaching this tragic reality as those who believe in the power and presence of God in our lives.

Four important things that we could focus on during these days.

1. Think of the common good!

One of the most important things we can do these days is respect and obey the directives and guidelines given by the Government and the Church. We are asked to observe strict social distance, take extra care of personal hygiene, and do everything personally possible to prevent the spread of this disease. This means that we all have to make sacrifices, for the good of everyone. That isn’t easy or convenient and yet, it is absolutely essential that we do so.

2. Pray without losing hope!

The Diocese and our local Churches have called for common moments for prayer and seeking God’s help. In the Gospel of coming Sunday which speaks of the resurrection of Lazarus, there is a key phrase. To the weeping and sad Martha and Mary, Jesus said, “your brother is not dead, he shall live, and all these things happened so that God’s glory may be revealed.”

In the same way, we pray that God will use this crisis for His own glory. Through it, may He remind people that all must abandon their sinful ways and return to Him. When God finished creating the heavens and the earth, He declared that everything He had made was “very good.” There was no sin, no sickness, and no death. That was God’s design at creation. We pray that humanity may be restored to that original beauty and harmony.

God will make a new heaven and a new earth, wherein righteousness dwells. (2 Peter 3:13) For those who have trusted in Christ, His promise is precious, “God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.” (Revelation 4:21)

3. Make Lent count!

When we look around, we see that many important measures are being adopted by countries in order to contain and cure this virus. The whole world is on an all-out war, determined to wipe out this unseen and dangerous enemy. Cleaning, quarantining, sanitizing – you name it, everything possible is being done on an unprecedented scale and manner. With the State level shutdown, all ‘non-essential’ travels are also not allowed.

In this season of Lent, the Church is inviting us to get rid of so many ‘**non-essential**’ things from our lives. Isn’t this a wonderful occasion to seriously consider and put into effect this wisdom of the Church. Can we raise the level of our spiritual life and ‘clean and sanitize’ our inner self? We can pray to God together with the Psalmist, “Purify me, O Lord, and create in me a clean heart.” God could do so much with a people who are really serious about holiness and focusing on what is truly essential in life. Make this Lenten season truly count!

4. Be on fire for Christ!

The speed with which this virus is spreading in some countries is shocking and frightening. Unfortunately, when someone who is infected touches something, the contamination can stay on that object for up to a few days. Now, imagine the Holy Spirit moving through you and me with that same speed and effectiveness. If we are full of the power of the Holy Spirit, we could profoundly influence others every time we encounter them and its effect could have a transforming effect on their lives. We could become so ‘contagious’ and on fire with God’s love that we would inevitably touch all those with whom we come into contact with.

To help you find some **comfort**, strength and hope during these days, consider the following.

The Centre of the Bible	
Which is the shortest chapter in the Bible?	Psalm 117
Which is the longest chapter in the Bible?	Psalm 119
Which chapter is in the centre of the Bible?	Psalm 118
There are 594 chapter before Psalm 118	There are 594 chapters after Psalm 118
$594 + 594 = 1188$	
What is the centre verse in the Bible?	Psalm 118:8 (1188)
Psalm 118:8 "It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man."	
Does this verse say something significant about God's perfect will for our lives?	
When things get tough, always remember: "Faith does not get you around trouble, it gets you through it!"	

"I am the Resurrection and the Life. Do you believe this?" – Sunday's Gospel

I remember reading the following incident.

Each year, at the University of Chicago Divinity School, they have what is called ‘Baptist Day’. It is a day when all the Baptists in the area are invited to the school.

On this day, each one is to bring a lunch to be eaten outdoors in a grassy picnic area. Every Baptist Day, the school would invite one of the great minds to lecture in the Theological Education Centre.

One year, they invited Dr. Paul Tillich. He spoke for 2 ½ hours proving that the Resurrection of Jesus was false. He quoted scholar after scholar and book after book. He concluded that since there

was no such thing as the historical resurrection, the religious tradition of the church was groundless, emotional mumbo-jumbo, because it was based on a relationship with a risen Jesus, who in fact, never rose from the dead in any literal sense. He then asked if there were any questions.

After about 30 seconds, an elderly preacher stood up in the back of the auditorium.

“Dr. Tillich, I got one question,” he said as all eyes turned toward him. He reached into his sack lunch and pulled out an apple and began eating it.

“Dr. Tillich, my question is a simple question. Now, I have never read them books you read and I can’t recite the Scriptures in the original Greek. I don’t know anything about the great philosophers...”

He finished the apple.

“All I want to know is: This apple I just ate, was it bitter or sweet?”

Dr. Tillich paused for a moment and answered in exemplary scholarly fashion: “I cannot possibly answer that question, for I haven’t tasted your apple.”

The white-haired preacher dropped the core of his apple into his crumpled paper bag, looked up at Dr. Tillich and said calmly, “**Neither have you tasted my Jesus.**”

The 1000 plus in attendance could not contain themselves. The auditorium erupted with applause and cheers.

Dr. Tillich thanked his audience and promptly left the platform.

(Shared by Richard)

My dear friends, ‘Jesus is truly risen! Have you tasted Him?’ That will make all the difference in your life. While we live out the next weeks, experiencing all the suffering this virus is causing and struggling through this great adversity, let us seek the face of God, of the risen Jesus. You will not be disappointed for He is always faithful to His promises. He has conquered all evil. Keep your spirits high, let your hope filled optimism spread around you!

Invoking God’s blessings upon each one of you and praying for you every day,

In Christ,

Fr. Simon



My Parish App

1. Click the Giving button on My Parish App.
2. Click the Blessed Sacrament Online Giving link **Abundant A** on the right side of the screen.
3. Enter the amount you want to give, select a fund, choose your frequency and enter your email address.
4. Click Continue and enter your payment information to complete the transaction.

If you have an Abundant login, you can login when prompted and use a saved payment method.



MOBILE

1. Search **Abundant Giving** in the app store and download the app.
2. Locate Blessed Sacrament Parish by typing our church name or city in the Abundant search bar. Select our church and sign in or sign up for an account.
3. Follow the prompts to Give.

Swipe up on the app screen to access your giving history, scheduled gifts and saved payment methods.



TEXT

1. Text **BSPMICHIGAN** to 73256.
2. Click the link you receive in your text message response.
3. Follow the prompts to give.

Text giving saves your information so you can quickly give again.