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St. John Vianney Catholic Church

"I will show you the way to heaven."

– St. John Vianney



March 21, 2020

SJV Newsletter – 4th Sunday of Lent

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This is the craziest Lent I have encountered! However, remember that God is crazy in love with YOU! Keep Sunday holy even though you can't come to the church building. You can livestream the Mass online or read the scripture readings together as a family, <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/032220.cfm>, or spend some time in prayer.

Our 2nd reading from this Sunday's Mass says, "Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth" (Eph 5: 8b-9). What goodness are you producing for your family, your neighbors, your friends? I see that some children are making drawings for grandparents and sending those via email or showing them through windows. You can offer a rosary or some other prayer for a relative or friend. Use your imagination to think of new and creative ways to offer goodness to others!

There are no new updates in the directives from Bishop Doherty. Just a reminder that Bishop Doherty has mandated the suspension of all public celebrations of the Mass, other liturgical services and gatherings of the faithful effective Wednesday, March 18, 2020 until further notice. The dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass from March 13, 2020 continues until further notice. It is not a permanent dispensation. You can read his statement and directives by going to: <https://www.dol-in.org/response-to-current-news-events>

I encourage you to follow the guidelines from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>. They also have helpful resources for managing stress and anxiety during this time, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/managing-stress-anxiety.html>. As I write this, I see that the Indiana State Department of Health, <http://www.state.in.us/isdh/28470.htm>, says there are 10 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Hamilton County. Please be responsible and loving to your neighbor to help prevent them from being sick.

There are many online resources available to you to utilize in learning the faith and assisting you with your prayers. The homepage of St. John Vianney, <http://www.sjvfishers.com>, has been updated to include some additional links for news articles and a link for the daily Mass from Word on Fire. The password to subscribe to <http://www.formed.org> for free is: TYRDMZ.

These are difficult times for many people so please keep one another in prayer. If you are able to still give to St. John Vianney, that would be helpful to still cover expenses. You can give online by clicking the "Online Giving" button on the homepage and giving electronically, or you can give by sending a check to the church.

Please check in on your neighbors and friends using social media. Social distancing does not mean we are isolated from one another. Encourage one another to persevere in the love of God and know that the COVID-19 cannot keep God from loving you!

As always, if there is a life-threatening situation and you need a priest for the reception of the sacraments, you can call the parish office and click the extension to reach Fr. Tony Rowland.

Act of Spiritual Communion

“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 into 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.”

Please remember to pray daily for all those affected by COVID-19; for those around the world who are sick; for those who have lost loved ones; for all doctors, nurses, caregivers, public health officials; for all civic leaders and lawmakers; for those with anxiety and fear; and for all the deceased. Together may we seek and receive the maternal intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe:

*Holy Virgin of Guadalupe,
Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas.
We fly to you today as your beloved children.
We ask you to intercede for us with your Son,
as you did at the wedding in Cana.*

*Pray for us, loving Mother,
and gain for our nation and world,
and for all our families and loved ones,
the protection of your holy angels,
that we may be spared the worst of this illness.*

*For those already afflicted,
we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance.
Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful,
wipe away their tears and help them to trust.*

*In this time of trial and testing,
teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be patient and kind.
Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts.*

*We come to you with confidence,
knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother,
health of the sick and cause of our joy.*

*Shelter us under the mantle of your protection,
keep us in the embrace of your arms,
help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus.
Amen.*

In Christ,

Fr. Tony Rowland

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