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St. John Vianney Catholic Church

*"I will show you the way to heaven."
– St. John Vianney*



March 25, 2020

SJV Newsletter – Annunciation of the Lord

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Happy Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord. Today the Church celebrates the Incarnation of the Lord! This day marks a new beginning, for we recall God taking on our human nature in its condition. Things can be challenging as we take on new routines in our daily lives, dive deeper into our home relationships, and utilize technology at a different level. However, take time to be in the silence, in the stillness, being attentive to the stirrings of the Holy Spirit in your heart. Remember that **GOD LOVES YOU!** The Incarnation reminds us of that great love. I invite you to read what St. Leo the Great says on the Incarnation:

"He was born in a new condition, for, invisible in his own nature, he became visible in ours. Beyond our grasp, he chose to come within our grasp. Existing before time began, he began to exist at a moment in time. Lord of the universe, he hid his infinite glory and took the nature of a servant. Incapable of suffering as God, he did not refuse to be a man, capable of suffering."

God was willing to suffer so that we might know and love Him now and for eternity. Mary had to be a willing listener to receive this great news and to give her consent to participate in the work of God. With our Blessed Mother's intercession, may we also be willing participants in the work of God.

As I write this article to you, there are no new updates in the directives from Bishop Doherty. I will keep you updated and send a newsletter when updates arrive. I do know that the bishops of Indiana have been in conversation with one another, there is information being sent from the Holy See, and Bishop Doherty is taking many factors into consideration with these directives. As he has said before in his homily, he is here because "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life" (John 3:16). This is not easy and please keep Bishop Doherty in your prayers as he seeks to guide the faithful in the diocese. You can read his previous directives <https://www.dol-in.org/response-to-current-news-events>.

Allow me to also share with you what Pope Francis said today:

“As trustful children we turn to the Father. We do it every day, several times a day; but right now we wish to beg mercy for mankind, so sorely tried by the coronavirus pandemic. And we do this together, Christians of every Church and Community, of every tradition, of every age, language and nation.

We pray for the sick and their families; for health workers and those who help them; for the authorities, law enforcement agencies and volunteers; for the ministers of our communities.

Today many of us celebrate the Incarnation of the Word in the womb of the Virgin Mary, when her humble and total “Behold” reflected the “Behold” of the Son of God. We too entrust ourselves, with full confidence, to the hands of God, and with one heart and one soul we pray:

"Our Father..."

Please also know that as I celebrate Mass each day, I keep you all in my prayers! I am still healthy and well and striving to do my part to assist our neighbor. The measures taken by our community are to assist all people, especially the weak and vulnerable. The directives given to us are certainly a reminder to not think about ourselves but one another. This is great news when entire communities are seeking the welfare of each other! In celebrating the Incarnation of our Lord, God became flesh for our sake, that we might have eternal life. Praise God who teaches us the value of sacrifice for one another.

I share with you a picture of the interior of SJV that I took today, ready to receive you when the church is opened again for the public. These times certainly remind me to not take so many things for granted, especially the sacraments.

If you haven't taken advantage of the prayer chain, this would be an opportune time to share your intentions and support one another with your prayers. You can add intentions or sign up to be a part of the prayer chain by clicking <https://sjvfishers.com/prayer-chain>.

I leave you with the words which are said to be recorded in the Bible 365 times, one for each day of the year, **“Be not afraid”**.

In Christ,
Fr. Tony Rowland

