



St. Jude Catholic Church

50 Edgewood Rd. NW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52405
319-390-3520

March 26, 2020

Saint Jude Parishioners,

You, more so now than before, are in my prayers as we continue our time of isolation in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic. Last Saturday afternoon I was out for a walk when I heard our church bells ring as part of the ‘five minute warning’ for the Saturday 4:30 PM Mass, but there was to be no Mass in our church then or for the foreseeable future. It was sad.

- 1) Though physically separated, we have the opportunity to be united through the Holy Spirit in prayer. I invite everyone to pray tomorrow (or today - depending on when you read this), Friday, March 27, with Pope Francis at noon Iowa time. The Archdiocese of Dubuque has provided this link to join Pope Francis as he prays from Rome for an end to this pandemic: vaticannews.va/en.html
- 2) I am requesting parishioners from among you who are reading this communication to volunteer to:
 - call other parishioners (elderly) who may welcome a call during this time of social distancing.
 - pick up groceries or medicine for these same parishioners and drop it off at their homes (without entering their homes, keeping social distancing safeguards).

Contact Michelle, pastoral associate, at 319-390-3520 or m.tressel@dbqarch.org to serve our parish family in this way.

- 3) THANK YOU to those who have been bringing food to help support Metro Catholic Outreach (MCO). MCO reported they recently operated at their highest level of service with respect to food baskets. The need is great. For more information see: metro catholic outreach.org

THANK YOU also to those who have continued to support our parish financially. **IF** you are in a financial position to do so, please continue with your financial stewardship during this time so St. Jude is better able to continue the mission of the Church.

The parish office is closed, but currently it is staffed from 12:00 PM-1:00 PM and 5:00 PM-6:00 PM Monday-Friday to accept MCO donations and financial contributions. Financial contributions can also be made via the website: judes.org/donate.

- 4) Please visit the parish website - judes.org - and the archdiocesan website - dbqarch.org - for regular updates.

The Gospel for this weekend is the account of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. Before his miracle, Lazarus' sisters cried to Jesus "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died" (John 11:21). We know from that time of trial and sorrow, Jesus Christ brought about something amazing. May we continue in faith, praying for those impacted by the coronavirus and those fighting it, trusting that our Lord can likewise bring about something amazing.

~Father Mark Murphy