



## St. Jude Church

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Archbishop Jackels shared the following updates with priests which I want to share with you.

### **Plenary Indulgence** – Update from Friday, March 20, 2020

Yesterday [March 19, 2020] the Church published a plenary indulgence for people who are sick with the coronavirus, and anyone caring for people who are sick with the coronavirus, and people who are quarantined because of the coronavirus.

The conditions for receiving the plenary indulgence are: a spirit of detachment from any sin (like saying “I hate sin”); the intention to go to Confession, receive Holy Communion, and pray for the Pope’s intentions as soon as possible; participate (even via the media) in the celebration of Holy Mass, or the Rosary, or the Way of the Cross, or if that isn’t possible, to recite the Creed, the Our Father and the Hail Mary.

During this time of pandemic, a plenary indulgence is also available to the Catholic faithful who – in addition to having a spirit of detachment from any sin, have the intention to go to Confession, receive Holy Communion and pray for the Pope’s intentions as soon as possible – make a visit to the Blessed Sacrament, or read Scripture for at least 30 minutes, or pray the Rosary, or make the Way of the Cross, or recite the Divine Mercy chaplet for the following intentions: an end to the pandemic, relief to those afflicted, and eternal salvation for those who have died.

Finally, a plenary indulgence is granted to people at the moment of death, when they are unable to receive Anointing and Viaticum. The only conditions are that the person be properly disposed, have recited a few prayers during his/her lifetime, and at the moment of death to hold or look at a cross or crucifix, if possible.

### **Solemnity of the Annunciation** – Update from Monday, March 23, 2020

All of the Catholic faithful of the Archdiocese of Dubuque are invited to join in a day of fast, abstinence, and prayer on Wednesday, 25 March 2020; this is voluntary, not obligatory.

On that day, people ordinarily bound on Ash Wednesday to fast (only one full meal, taking less at the other meals) and abstain from meat are invited to make those same sacrifices. And as far as prayer is concerned, the Rosary is recommended as a powerful prayer, prayed alone or with others. [Father Mark will pray the Rosary at 9:00 AM (Joyful Mysteries), 12:00 PM (Luminous Mysteries), 3:00 PM (Sorrowful Mysteries), and 6:00 PM (Glorious Mysteries). Please join him in prayer, for the intentions listed below, wherever you are.]

Our Holy Father Pope Francis has asked that, on that day, everyone who glories in the name Christian **pray the Our Father** to beg God: for speedy deliverance from the evil of the coronavirus; for those who are sick or who live in fear of infection; for those who care for the sick and elderly; for those who live in fear for their lives and livelihood: and that we might all remain calm and confident in God’s wisdom, power, and goodness.

**Pray with Pope Francis on Friday, 27 March 2020** – Update from Monday, March 23, 2020

This coming Friday, at 12 Noon local time, everyone is **invited to participate spiritually via livestream (at [vaticannews.va](https://www.vaticannews.va)) in a special moment of prayer presided over by our Holy Father Pope Francis.**

The Pope will be on the *sagrato* (front steps) of St. Peter's Basilica. There will be readings from Sacred Scripture, prayers of supplication, and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

At the conclusion, the Holy Father will give a special *urbi et orbi* (to the city of Rome and to the world) blessing. Those who participate livestream can gain the plenary indulgence attached to the Pope's blessing.

To gain the plenary indulgence, in addition to participating in the prayer service via livestream, it is required – as soon as possible – to go to Confession, receive Holy Communion, and pray (Our Father and Hail Mary) for the Holy Father's intentions.

**Abstaining from meat** – Update from Monday, March 23, 2020

The Catholic faithful in the Archdiocese of Dubuque are **dispensed from the obligation to abstain from meat on Friday, 27 March 2020 and on Friday, 3 April 2020.**

This dispensation does not apply to Good Friday, 10 April 2020.

This dispensation is granted in view of the difficulty people might have in finding meal alternatives to meat, or to go out for grocery shopping.

The Fridays of Lent remain days of prayer and penance. Those who are able to abstain from meat, should do so. Those who aren't able to abstain, should perform some other act of penance.

An example of an alternative penance might to bear up silently and with calm under the extraordinary strains and burdens of being cooped up at home.

Please see the St. Jude Church website, [judes.org](https://judes.org), and the Archdiocese of Dubuque's website, [dbqarch.org](https://dbqarch.org), for other regular updates.

~Father Mark Murphy