



St. Jude Church

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Cedar Rapids, IA 52405
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May 8, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me."

These words are from the beginning of this weekend's Gospel. When we hear Jesus' exhortation to "have faith also in me", we may think of faith as an affirmation that Jesus is the Son of God; that he is in the Father and the Father is in him. However, in the light of the uncertainty of life due to our coronavirus experience, instead of thinking of faith as this belief in theological truths, we may more readily think of faith as trust. Jesus may be encouraging us to trust in him; to deepen our relationship with him, in these uncertain times.

During these uncertain times, there are some things I want to share with you.

2020 Sweet Corn Festival

After consultation with parish and festival leadership, we have decided to cancel the 2020 Sweet Corn Festival. This decision was made due to concern for safety of all who would be involved with the festival as well as the uncertainty of what the festival would even look like in the time of coronavirus. This was not a decision that was made lightly. I am personally grateful for our parishioners who are very committed to the success of our festival and were willing to make this decision.

Celebration of Mass and the Sacraments

The suspension of the public celebration of Mass continues. At St. Jude Church, this means we will:

- livestream the weekend Mass on Saturdays at 7:00 PM. The link to the livestream is available at judes.org.
- broadcast the Mass on KMMK 88.7 FM on Saturdays at 7:00 PM.
- post the link to the video of the weekend Mass on our website so you may watch and pray per your own schedule.
- maintain other prayer resources on our website.
- make available for home use the 'Today's Missal' booklets we use at Mass that include the Sunday readings. Note: You may pick up a copy of 'Today's Missal' from the church from 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM, Monday – Friday.
- celebrate the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick by appointment as well as celebrate baptisms, weddings, and funerals with no more than ten people in attendance.

Virtual Parish Coffee and Donuts

Normally St. Jude Church has coffee and donuts after Mass on the second Sunday of the month. I think this is a great opportunity to have a tasty treat and to treat ourselves to conversation with each other.

With that in mind, we are hosting a virtual coffee and donuts this Sunday, May 10, at 10:00 AM. From the safety of your own home, via computer or phone, you can visit with fellow parishioners and have less competition for one of the coveted chocolate frosted donuts, assuming you already purchased them. You need to register beforehand at judes.org/virtual-coffee-and-donuts to participate.

Consecration of St. Jude Church to the Blessed Virgin Mary

This Monday, May 11 (the day after Mother's Day) I will consecrate St. Jude Church to the Blessed Virgin Mary via a livestreamed prayer service starting at 6:00 PM. The livestream and the worship aid for the prayer service are available at judes.org/reconsecrate-our-nation-to-our-lady. The worship aid may also be used by families, groups, or individuals to consecrate themselves to the Mother of God.

Our responsorial psalm this weekend has the refrain: *Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.* It's not only in times of uncertainty, but throughout our life that Jesus invites us to have faith in him and to trust him. May we ask Mary to help us grow in our own certainty of our faith and trust in Jesus.

~Father Mark Murphy