



St. Jude Church

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Cedar Rapids, IA 52405
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August 13, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

Last weekend's readings were more than appropriate for what happened on Monday:

There was a strong and violent wind rending the mountains and crushing rocks
(1 Kings 19:11).

*Meanwhile the boat, already a few miles offshore, was being tossed about by the waves,
for the wind was against it* (Matthew 14:24).

A strong and violent wind was against us on Monday. There is some damage to our parish buildings and grounds. The primary areas that sustained damage are: the roof area above the St Jude stained-glass window in the church, some siding on the church and bell tower, a couple of windows at the rectory, the sports fields and a number of trees.

However, since Tuesday morning we have been celebrating Mass like Christians have been celebrating Mass for over half the history of the Church - without electricity. We will continue to celebrate our regularly scheduled 7:00 AM Mass Tuesday - Friday.

We will also celebrate Mass at our regularly scheduled times this weekend, with or without electricity. Additionally, this Saturday is the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In honor of this day, which this year remains a holy day but not of obligation, we will celebrate Mass at 9:00 AM on Saturday, August 15.

All coronavirus precautions remain in place for all Masses. We will continue wearing masks, maintaining social distancing in the narthex, pews and church, and having hand sanitizer available.

If we do not have power, it will be warm and humid in the church: there will be no air conditioning and there will be no fans. Bear this in mind if you are deciding on whether or not to come to Mass. In addition, there will be no microphones or lights, nor will the Mass be live-streamed. As a reminder, Catholics in the Archdiocese of Dubuque remain dispensed from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation. If you come to Mass, do not be afraid to go outdoors for fresh air (I will note if you leave during the homily. Ha!)

Finally, there is clean up work to be done on the parish grounds. Come when you can, but **I especially invite people to come this coming Monday - Thursday at 6:00 PM to clean up debris.** Chainsaws, and trained chainsaw operators are especially needed to remove trees.

From the conclusion of last weekend's Gospel, we are told after Jesus and Peter "got into the boat, the wind died down" (Matthew 14:32). Like Peter, let's remain with Jesus, let's get into the boat with others, waiting with the Lord until the winds die down.

~Father Mark Murphy