



August 18, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

More than a week has passed since the derecho wreaked havoc in Cedar Rapids. The derecho disaster was especially challenging because it not only disrupted our normal means of communications, but even those who are usually quick to offer assistance in these situations were experiencing the same disaster themselves. Responding to this disaster has been a challenge.

The key points contained in this communication are: Resuming Mass in main church, cleaning parish grounds, responding to residents of Cedar Terrace apartment complex and responding to parishioners needing help and wanting to help.

Resuming Mass in Main Church

St. Jude Church received electrical power last night (Monday, August 17), allowing us to resume Mass in the main church starting this morning at 7:00 AM.

Cleaning Parish Grounds

Thanks to our Disaster Preparedness Committee who helped organize parishioners and other people of good will to clean our parish grounds last night.

Last night's workers made great progress. **If you are able, come tonight – Tuesday, August 18 – at 6:00 PM to continue with cleanup. We are still in need of a little chain saw work, but the major need now is to remove smaller debris from the property. Please bring leaf blowers, rakes, tarps, wheelbarrows, and anything that can help gather and transport smaller debris.** Hopefully, aside from repair work, our cleanup will be completed tonight.

Responding to Residents of Cedar Terrace Apartment Complex

On a more human note, you may have heard that apartments south of St. Jude, the Cedar Terrace Apartments, were especially hit hard by the derecho, creating a great human need.

I have reached out to some organizations more closely connected to the residents of these apartments, offering the support of St. Jude Church to our neighbors. One of those organizations anticipates being in touch with us soon to request support. My sense is that this organization is still assessing what the needs are. Additionally, some of our parishioners have offered to serve as interpreters, and that offer has already been accepted and put into use by Linn County officials.

Responding to Parishioners Needing Help and Wanting To Help

Finally, if you NEED help because of the derecho (food, debris clean-up, financial assistance, childcare, mental health), please contact our pastoral associate, Michelle Tressel, at 319-390-3520 or m.tressel@dbqarch.org.

If you WANT TO help people impacted by the derecho (debris clean-up, checking on other people, food preparation, other offers), please contact our pastoral associate, Michelle Tressel, at 319-390-3520 or m.tressel@dbqarch.org.

If you NEED or WANT TO help, you will need to provide the following information:

Name

Address

Best way to contact you at this time

Immediate needs or How you are able to help

In last weekend's Gospel, we hear what I think is one of the best compliments Jesus gives: "O woman, great is your faith!" (Matthew 15:28). The Lord give this compliment in response to one of the best prayers we hear in the Gospel: "Lord, help me" (Matthew 15:25). As people of faith in Jesus, may we as the Church be his instruments in responding to our neighbors who today offer that same prayer – *Lord, help me.*

~Father Mark Murphy