

The Extra Page

Letter from the Pastor

Dear friends of St. Mary's

These are indeed unprecedented times. Few of us would have imagined a time of general seclusion from our regular encounters and daily routines, let alone the public life of the Church. No doubt for all of us this is a time of separation from the Eucharistic presence of our Lord and the celebration of the Mass. Please know that every day before I approach the altar I pray for our parish family, especially those most impacted by these measures and those suffering illness. The daily Masses at St. Mary can be watched on at <https://www.facebook.com/stmarykazoo/> or www.stmarykazoo.org at the bottom of the home page.

For all of us, the challenges of this moment are various depending on our circumstances and state of life. For all ages, the loss of structure and the impact of isolation are foremost in our experience. This is a time to examine our lives and consider how much of our lives are ordered by external events rather than interior principles. This moment can be an opportunity to make those choices that help us to build within the virtues that mark a good life. In this, a daily schedule and structure helps to keep us focused and strengthen us in uncertain times. Get up at a set time, dress for the day, eat regular meals, have a bedtime and get a good eight hours of sleep. Keep television and other screen time limited. These things help give natural order to our lives in the midst of chaos.

On the foundation of nature, the life of Grace builds. It is important also to have daily habits of prayer. Make a morning offering before a family breakfast. Pray the Angelus at noon. Read a short spiritual reading or daily readings from the Mass before a family dinner. Watch a movie about the saints in the evening instead of binge watching Netflix. To help with these things, the diocese of Kalamazoo has set us a special page called the Sunday Experience (www.dioceseofkalamazoo.org/sundayexperience). Additionally, the Formed.org website has a wealth of great resources. You can sign up as a St. Mary parishioner and access books, movies, bible and faith studies, and much more.

Lastly, please remember your parish at this time. We are all in need of prayer. Please in your daily prayers, especially the family rosary, remember our parish family and pray for your priests as we look to God to help us serve His flock. Please also, so far as you are able, continue your financial support of your parish. Your envelopes or checks can be mailed to the parish office, you may consider signing up for automated bill pay through your bank to have your tithes sent directly to us, or you may wish to sign up for electronic giving through the parish website. This last option is a new possibility for St. Mary's and helps us to budget based on regular giving.

Certainly God will be with us in this present trial and will not leave us unaided when we are tested.

In Christ and St. Philip,

Rev. James Richardson

Stay connected

St. Mary Website: www.stmarykazoo.org
St. Mary facebook: www.facebook.com/stmarykazoo/
Diocese of Kalamazoo: www.dioceseofkalamazoo.org
Sunday Experience: www.dioceseofkalamazoo.org/Sundayexperience

"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'" ~ Jn 11:25-27

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RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY**A Prayer for Our Uncertain Times**

May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home remember those who must choose between preserving their health and making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips remember those who have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country, let us choose love.

And during this time when we may not be able to physically wrap our arms around each other, let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors. Amen.

- Submitted by Fr. Michael Graham, S.J.

THE PUBLIC PORTION OF THE SPRING 40 DAYS FOR LIFE CAMPAIGN IS CANCELLED EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC.

Thank you to everyone who prayed on the sidewalk of Planned Parenthood or from home. I would like to invite you all to continue praying for an end to abortion in our community.

THE KALAMAZOO RIGHT TO LIFE ANNUAL FOCUS ON LIFE DINNER is cancelled for now but will be rescheduled.

BABY BOTTLE FUNDRAISER is a great way to incorporate Lenten almsgiving while helping mothers in need in the Kalamazoo area. During these 40 days of Lent, put extra change or dollars in the baby bottle. All proceeds will be given to Caring Network. **If you would prefer to donate by check, please make check payable to Caring Network.** We would love to have 100% of the bottles returned even if you are unable to give at this time. There will be a collection box for the baby bottles in the vestibule for all bottles (filled or unfilled).

THE SPIRITUAL ADOPTION PROGRAM IS IN ITS FIFTH MONTH. Please continue praying for the baby you have spiritually adopted.



"For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well." Psalm 139:13-14

"O my people, I will open your graves and have you rise from them... I will put my spirit in you that you may live...I have promised, and I will do it, says the Lord."
~ Ezekiel 37:12, 14

Readings for the week of Mar 29 - Apr 5

Sunday	Fifth Sunday of Lent Ez 37:12-14; Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45 or Jn 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45
	Extraordinary Form: Passion Sunday Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-15 Gospel: John 8:46-59
Monday	Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or Dn 13:41c-62; Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Jn 8:1-11
Tuesday	Nm 21:4-9; Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21; Jn 8:21-30
Wednesday	Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56; Jn 8:31-42
Thursday	Saint Francis of Paola, Hermit Gn 17:3-9; Ps 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Jn 8:51-59
Friday	Jer 20:10-13; Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7; Jn 10:31-42
Saturday	Saint Isidore, Bishop and Doctor of the Church Ez 37:21-28; Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13; Jn 11:45-56
Sunday	Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord Mt 21:1-11; Is 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24; Phil 2:6-11; Mt 26:14-27:66 or Mt 27:11-54
	Extraordinary Form: Palm Sunday Epistle: Philippians 2:5-11 Gospel: Matthew 26:36-75, 27:1-66

The Diocese of Kalamazoo offers resources and liturgical guidelines during the COVID-19 closures. Please see the Diocesan website at:

<https://www.dioceseofkalamazoo.org/>

(updates are made frequently)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ADDRESSED:

Will my parish still have daily or weekend Masses?

What about Adoration?

Will my Parish be open for only certain hours of the day?

What about Confession?

Can I still get married while Masses are suspended?

Are Baptisms permitted while Masses are still suspended?

Can we still receive the Anointing of the Sick?

Will Confirmations be suspended?

What about Funeral Masses?

Will there still be a Chrism Mass during Holy Week?

What about Holy Week?

Where can I learn more about the Diocesan Guidelines?

RESOURCES OFFERED:

Where can I watch Mass online?

How do I make a Spiritual Communion?

How can I practice my faith while I'm home?

Are there resources available for my family's faith life while we're home?

How can I stay connected with my Parish community?

Where can I learn more about the coronavirus COVID-19?

Prayers and Novenas