

Dear family,

I miss all of you dearly. Per medical advice, Jan, my son, and I continue to stay at home. We are doing so in relatively good cheer.

I am in prayerful union with you during St. Mary's live-streamed liturgies. I like seeing my friends at Mass even though I'm not visible to you. I get a kick in seeing others who are on the same live-stream. I'm in telephone contact with parishioners to help them (and me) feel connected.

Even from home, I am doing my best to remain an active member of this parish community. I attend ZOOM representing the parish at meetings with the Kalamazoo Eastside Neighborhood Association, the E-Net (associated members of non-profits, government and residents), the deanery, Deacons for Life, Parish Communications, Trail Life, Knights of Columbus, Northside Ministerial Alliance, and the Kalamazoo County Health Department COVID-19 briefings. I provide parish liaison to Kalamazoo Public Safety.

I continue to receive calls for assistance from our St. Christopher Fund - you continue to be very generous to those in need. This time has been especially tough on those living on the margins.

However, this period has provided opportunities in prayer that I ordinarily hadn't appreciated. While you have been spared my monthly homilies, I find that I need to practice preaching, even given the absence of your ears. Homily preparation compels me to delve prayerfully into the Word, commentaries and the Church Fathers. I've developed a website dedicated to Scripture, preaching, prayer and Catholic news with a local emphasis. I post a homily every Wednesday. Feel free to check it out at [www.WordBecameFlesh.org](http://www.WordBecameFlesh.org).

I've started one-on-one calls with some who want to pray with Scripture and listen to how God speaks to them through the living Word.

Please, allow me to pray for you and your family, for your needs, and even to amplify your thanksgiving. As clergy of your Church, I am privileged to administer the Church's blessing to console and fortify the faithful in need. I am at your service. Call anytime: (269)744-5136, [deacon@stmarykzoo.org](mailto:deacon@stmarykzoo.org)

From my prayer place to yours in the communion of the Holy Spirit,

Your Dcn. Pat

