

March 23, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

At Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, our primary concern is the holiness, health and safety of our parishioners. We are praying for all who have been impacted by the current health crisis, especially the sick and their care givers. The spread of COVID-19 has truly impacted our parish, our community and our country. We will continue to communicate with you about our parish events and activities as often as possible so that you are aware of what is going on at Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Our primary role is to provide for the spiritual and pastoral needs of the faithful. Additionally, as members of the broader community, we are committed to participating in the larger response by our cities and state. Bishop Jugis' decision to dispense from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass, as well as the canceling or curtailing of all other liturgical events and gatherings, was based on the CDC and state government guidelines. Local priests are to provide for the needs of their parishioners within these parameters.

We must continue to pray and support those most vulnerable – the poor, those with less stable employment, and parents who need to work and are unable to find childcare. In a special way, we want to support the elderly, sick and shut-ins who may feel isolated and lonely. In the spirit of Lent, I ask all of us to embrace the works of mercy with zeal and to practice a spirit of gratitude and generosity to others, whether it be using our time to pray, giving to our parish offertory, or donating to the Diocesan Support Appeal.

Please know that we are committed to continuing the good work of our parish and the Church at this time. We want to thank each of you for the many ways you support our mission and ask that you please continue to support the work of our Church. Our parish is dependent upon your weekly financial gifts to continue its ministries in this time of crisis when we are not able to go to Mass. We offer you several ways to continue giving under the current circumstances:

1. You can use this opportunity to transition to online giving by going to our website, www.ihmhayesville.org, and clicking on the contact us button at the top right of the homepage just above the picture of the sanctuary. Click on the Online Giving Logo and you will be directed to the IHM online donation page to set up your account.
2. Another option is to set up your offering as a bill payment to Immaculate Heart of Mary using on-line banking available through your financial institution. Use the church mailing address listed below. A check will be sent directly to the church from your bank.
3. Finally, we are checking mail regularly, so you can mail your checks to the church office:
St. William Church, P O Box 546, Murphy, NC 28906.

Feel free to call the office if you have questions. We are grateful for your contributions.

Mailing Address: P.O Box 546, Murphy, NC 28906

E-Mail Address: stwilli@frontier.com

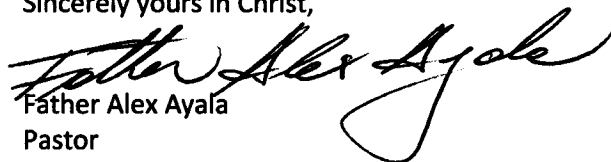
Church Locations:

St. William – 765 Andrews Road, Murphy, NC

Immaculate Heart of Mary – 1433 Hwy 64 West, Hayesville, NC

Please join me in prayer for the repose of those who have died, for the recovery of those who are sick, for the strength of healthcare workers and caregivers, and for an end to this health crisis. Please be assured of my prayers for all of you, our Immaculate Heart of Mary parishioners, and know that we are here for you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Father Alex Ayala". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the name.

Father Alex Ayala

Pastor