

Special Message from Fr. Michael

Dear Parish Family,

These are different and difficult times. I hope you are taking all the recommended precautions as we do battle with the Corona Virus. Be sure to stay healthy and safe with limited movement. (Remember you might be a carrier without knowing.)

I want you to know that with the help of a planning committee I am doing everything I can to limit the unsettling effects of being deprived of the Eucharist and physical separation from each other. I do not want to even try to minimize the spiritual and emotional hardship this brings to many of you.

However, as a help, on the Feast of St. Joseph, I can direct you to the way in which Joseph and Mary had to adjust to the cruel life which surrounded them, both religiously and politically, ultimately resulting in the crucifixion of their Son, Jesus.

Quietly and humbly they sought only the Father's will. It involved great personal suffering, deprivation, profound mutual support, heroic faith and prayer. Thus followed the resurrection and triumph. So it shall be with the worldwide, national and personal effects of the corona virus. With Jesus, Mary and Joseph leading we will triumph too and celebrate the wisdom of God in a new resurrection.



MASSES

As of this Friday, March 20th, Bishop Stika has cancelled all public Masses throughout the diocese (no congregations) in order to abide by our President's strategy in combating the virus.

Here at St. Francis I will celebrate daily Mass Monday through Saturday @ 8 am. Sunday Mass will be celebrated @ 10 am. These Masses will be live streamed. At the end of each Mass I will give you any new updates that will be helpful.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

I will live stream Stations of the Cross on Fridays @ 5 pm. (no congregation)



ADORATION

Adoration will take place from 9 am to 6 pm Monday through Saturday. The church will be open and you can enter through two entrances on the rectory side of the church from 9 am to 3 pm. After 3 pm until the following morning you may enter the church through the side door into the church hall (with a special code) to pray before Jesus in Tabernacle. (When you leave make sure the door is closed securely behind you.) We are encouraging you to come individually (no groups) to pray for each other, our country and our world. (No more than 10 people in church at a time.)



CONFESSIONS

I will be available for confession in the church after 9 am or any time by appointment. Call the office during office hours or the rectory after hours at (931) 456-0415.



3 pm PRAYER

I am asking all parishioners to set their alarm clocks/phones to go off @ 3 pm (Divine Mercy Chaplet time). In doing so, no matter where you are or what you are doing when the alarm goes off, pray 3 Our Fathers, 3 Hail Mary's and 3 Glory Be to the Father for our parish and our country. (I've done this before at another parish and it's amazing what effect this can have on those around you and those who do it.)

CATHOLIC PRAYERS AND SPIRITUAL READING

We will place spiritual readings and prayers for your use at both entrances to the church and especially at the religious goods shop.



YOUR PARISH OFFERINGS

I hope you will be aware of the need to continue supporting St. Francis of Assisi Church financially. Your generosity is so important to us. We encourage you to forward weekly/monthly offerings in one of three ways, **online giving**, **drop it off at the office** or **mail it to us** at 7503 Peavine Road, FFG 38558.



EMERGENCY AND SICK CALLS

I will be available to bring the sacraments to you or any of your loved ones who are suffering serious illness. You can call the office at (931) 484-3628 during office hours or if it's an emergency situation you may call the emergency answering service at (931) 259-4998.

ANYONE AND ALL

If anyone, Catholic or not, would like a quiet holy place to come and pray during these difficult times St. Francis of Assisi Church is open and available to you between 9 am and 3 pm. If you are not sure where to go or how to enter the church please check with the church office on the grounds and we will be happy to help you.

Please let us pray for each other. I am confident that God will richly bless our efforts to support and care for each other and that we will come through this richer with faith, hope and love for God, for our Catholic faith and for each other.

Bless you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fr. Michael".

Fr. Michael