

St. Catherine Laboure Parish E-Newsletter

April 2nd, 2020

Due to mailing costs this will be the last E-Newsletter to be mailed. We will continue to update you through these E-Newsletters via email and online through our Website. (stcatherinelaboureconcord.org) Let us know if neither of these options work for you.

Dear Parishioners of St. Catherine Laboure Church,

I greet you in the name of Jesus who died that we might have life and have it more abundantly. I love you and miss you. We are living in uncertain times. We are anxious about our loved ones. Temptations abound to succumb to fear and despair. More than ever we need to trust in Jesus the source of all our hope. As we enter into Holy Week it saddens me that I will not be able to celebrate the great days of the Paschal Triduum with you. Priests are nothing without the people that they serve. As I offer Mass and lift you up in my daily prayers I encourage you to strive to spend time each day in prayer. I encourage you to spend time during Holy Week striving to unite yourself with Jesus in his sacred passion. I encourage you to keep Easter in your homes as best that can be by watching together as a family a televised Mass. We will emerge from the tomb of the current pandemic. May we do so with renewed faith and renewed commitment to Jesus and his Church.

A blessed Easter to you all!

Fr. Tim

Chapel and Palms- The Chapel will still remain open. Palms for Palm Sunday will be placed on a table in the Chapel for all those who would like to come pick them up to have in your homes. They will be available by **3 p.m. Saturday, April 4th, 2020**. We will leave them in the Chapel for the remainder of the week if you would rather get them during the week.

The Outreach Mass airs at 6:00 AM and 10:00 AM on **WLAJ Lansing TV53**. The Outreach Mass is also heard each Sunday on Good Shepherd Catholic Radio Jackson on 1510 AM and 93.3 FM, at 12:00 PM.

Sacrament of Confession - Fr. Tim is available to hear Confessions. You can call the office to make an appointment. Use prudent judgement: Do not make an appointment or come if you have been sick or have been around a sick person.

Holy Week - Good Friday is a day of fasting and abstinence from meat.. Every person between the age of 18 and 59 (beginning of 60th year) must fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Fasting means a person is permitted to eat one full meal. Two smaller meals may also be taken, but they are not to equal that of a full meal.

This Sunday's Collection- March 29th - \$2,855.00 16 envelopes and 11 online (Weekly Parish Budget is \$4432) Current year deficit \$21,713.00. We had 1 new online signup this week. **Please if you are able, consider supporting St. Catherine Laboure during this unusual time for our country and Church.** You can sign up for online giving by going to our website. We have a link

towards the top of our Home Page. It is very easy to set up (less than 5 minutes) You can change your amount or cancel at any time.

DSA Update - We are at **70%** of our Goal of **\$19,304**. We have received pledges in the amount **\$13, 575**. Thank you to all who have made your pledge!

Parish Office - Leave messages on the office phone for non emergency items or email stcatherine92@yahoo.com The rectory phone is 517-524-6261 if you are in need of speaking with Fr. Tim.

Easter Flowers: We received **\$407.00** for Easter Flowers. We hope to use this money in the future for flowers for the Church once we can all attend Mass together again.

St. Catherine Laboure Novena - It is not too late to join us - See Website for further information!

Website - Our Website will continue to be the best place to stay current with St. Catherine Laboure Parish. We are trying hard to keep this updated for our Parishioners.

Next Update: We anticipate putting out the next E- Newsletter the 1st week of Easter - **We will give an update to everyone on our Sunday collections for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday along with our DSA pledges.** We will also report the dollar amount of money that was collected for St. Vincent DePaul during the Lenten Season.

Parish Complex Update:In an attempt to save money, I have suspended the cleaning service that we employ to clean our parish complex. Over the past few months I have not been happy with the quality of their work. I will be looking into another possibility when things start up. This will save the parish \$700 per month.

The furnace pipes that run through the parish hall and in the furnace room were evaluated and found in need of replacement. 90% of the work was completed prior to the virus shut down. This will extend the life of the furnace and will save money in the long run. The work will be completed when workers are allowed to return.

The new lighting has been installed for the new St. Catherine shrine. Jim Legault has begun to build the new shrine.

About a month ago I contacted our insurance company to see if they would cover the damage to the interior to the church. The damage was assessed and the insurance company has agreed to pay for all water damage repairs as well as the complete painting of the church. The cost of the project is \$42,528. **The insurance company will pay the entire cost minus our \$500 deductible.** Once the cupola is repaired the interior repair and painting will move forward. It will take 2 weeks to complete. During the time of painting we will celebrate Mass in the parish hall.

In an attempt to keep our part-time employees employed during this challenging time the following has been accomplished thus far:

- The parish hall and classrooms have been cleaned. Every chair has been washed from top to bottom, tables washed and floors swept.
- The bathroom floors were steamed cleaned and sealed.
- The janitor closet was cleaned out and organized.
- The attic storage area and main furnace room has been cleaned and vacuumed.
- The large planter in the gathering space has been washed down. Old plants have been removed. New plants will be installed at a later date.
- The email system was set up so that we could send out blanket emails to parishioners.
- Parish data has been updated for the Diocese of Lansing.