

+JMJ+

March 17, 2020
+Feast of St. Patrick

Dear parishioners of St. Charles and St. Patrick,

Do not grow slack in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer. - Romans 12:11-12.

It seems that many businesses, restaurants, and organizations in Indiana are becoming unified in their policies and procedures to halt the rise in cases of the COVID-19 virus (coronavirus). The Catholic bishops of Indiana have seen it important to contribute to the prevention of the disease's spread and to protect the health of the faithful, especially those most vulnerable. **Effective Wednesday, March 18, 2020, Bishop Doherty has mandated the suspension of all public celebrations of the Mass, other liturgical services, and gatherings of the faithful, until further notice.** Beyond the suspension of public Masses, you will see in the Bishop's directives that all other scheduled celebrations at the parish are to be postponed, including Stations of the Cross, Penance services, and baptisms. Nor will there be regularly scheduled Confessions at this time.

I plan to have my private Sunday Mass filmed and posted for all parishioners early on Sunday morning, hopefully by 7:30am. This may assist you in observing the Sabbath and help spiritually unite us. You will see other livestream opportunities mentioned in the bishop's letter. I plan to create a more extensive list of online prayer possibilities for you all later in the week.

What graces may come of all this? I believe this will be a time of new habits of family prayer and faith in the home. Reading the Scriptures from Mass together, reading the lives of the saints, praying the family rosary, and having good faith discussions should become a daily experience. This is also why we now have a parish subscription to Formed.org, so that you can continue developing your faith at home!

Many of you have opened your hearts to the needy during this challenging period. Thank you for your great witness! I am humbled by your generosity last weekend to help support the **Benton Food Co-op**. They are providing pre-packaged food boxes for families on free and reduced lunches during the time of the school closure. If anyone would like to donate items, such as peanut butter, jelly, bread, spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, mac and cheese, Hamburger Helper, cereal, breakfast food, etc. you may bring your items to the church food boxes in the back of St. Pat's and St. Charles and they will be picked up daily, or you can drop off items at the CAP Office, 105 S. Howard St. Oxford, or the Co-op on Thursday's. The co-op will also accept any monetary donation to help defray costs. Checks payable to: Community Action Program, in the memo put Food Co-op.

On this Feast of St. Patrick, I recall the "Lorica" prayer written in AD 433 by the great Patron saint of Ireland for divine protection. I include it below for your own prayer. May his intercession (and that of all the saints) keep us firmly rooted in a deep love for Jesus Christ and a love for one another, especially those suffering most profoundly.

For any further questions, you may call Nancy Brost at the parish offices during business hours.

Under the Mercy,
Father Haan

Breastplate of Saint Patrick

I arise today
Through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity,
Through a belief in the Threeness,
Through confession of the Oneness
Of the Creator of creation.

I arise today
Through the strength of Christ's birth and His baptism,
Through the strength of His crucifixion and His burial,
Through the strength of His resurrection and His ascension,
Through the strength of His descent for the judgment of doom.

I arise today
Through the strength of the love of cherubim,
In obedience of angels,
In service of archangels,
In the hope of resurrection to meet with reward,
In the prayers of patriarchs,
In preachings of the apostles,
In faiths of confessors,
In innocence of virgins,
In deeds of righteous men.

I arise today
Through the strength of heaven;
Light of the sun,
Splendor of fire,
Speed of lightning,
Swiftmess of the wind,
Depth of the sea,
Stability of the earth,
Firmness of the rock.

I arise today
Through God's strength to pilot me;
God's might to uphold me,
God's wisdom to guide me,
God's eye to look before me,
God's ear to hear me,
God's word to speak for me,
God's hand to guard me,
God's way to lie before me,
God's shield to protect me,
God's hosts to save me
From snares of the devil,
From temptations of vices,

From every one who desires me ill,
Afar and anear,
Alone or in a multitude.

I summon today all these powers between me and evil,
Against every cruel merciless power that opposes my body and soul,
Against incantations of false prophets,
Against black laws of pagandom,
Against false laws of heretics,
Against craft of idolatry,
Against spells of witches and smiths and wizards,
Against every knowledge that corrupts man's body and soul.
Christ shield me today
Against poison, against burning,
Against drowning, against wounding,
So that reward may come to me in abundance.

Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down,
Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of every man who speaks of me,
Christ in the eye that sees me,
Christ in the ear that hears me.

I arise today
Through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity,
Through a belief in the Threeness,
Through a confession of the Oneness
Of the Creator of creation.
Amen.