

Sacred Heart Parish, Dexter, Missouri † founded 1889

St. Teresa Parish Glennonville, Missouri † founded 1905

St. Ann Parish, Malden, Missouri † founded 1890

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD-CAPE GIRARDEAU

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Friday, March 20, 2020

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR, FR. WILLIAM TO ALL THE FAITHFUL

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

God's blessings to all of you! As I write this, it is with the most heartfelt love and concern for all of you, the faithful of Sacred Heart, St. Teresa and St. Ann, especially now. In what has transpired in our world back in January, in our country as of a month, and now locally, reported in the news almost non-stop, the word "coronavirus" has been on everyone's collective minds and conversations. This pandemic outbreak has not only affected people's health around the world, it has affected our normal routines and our way of life. It has now begun to affect how we practice our faith. The letter of decree from Bishop Rice is difficult to accept, but one we must all respect, for the health of everyone.

In response to being unable to celebrate publicly the Mass or any other liturgies for the time being, I am announcing that our churches will remain open for you. This open church schedule begins March 21:

- Sacred Heart Parish 3-6 PM daily
- St. Teresa Parish 24/7 daily
- St. Ann Parish Wednesdays 12-3 PM & Saturdays 1-3 PM

On a personal note, I do hope you're doing alright. I've responded to many phone calls and text messages over the last ten days and am trying to do all I can to help bring people hope and consolation in this difficult time, and trust in Jesus. If you need to contact me or you just want to talk, please know I'm here for you and your family. We will get through the coronavirus pandemic, but I am asking that people pray the Rosary together as a family and especially the Memorarie prayer. I also want everyone to pray the Spiritual Communion Prayer when they visit church to pray, by St. Alphonsus Ligouri:

My Jesus, I believe that Thou art present...in the Blessed Sacrament. I love Thee above all things and I desire Thee in my soul. Since I cannot now receive Thee Sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though Thou wert already there, I embrace Thee and unite myself wholly to Thee; permit not that I should ever be separated from Thee. Amen.

While the decree of suspension of public Masses are in effect, I promise we will carry on in our faith! We will all get through this! Right now, churches are open for prayer. Next week, I will be sharing a web site with you to listen to my short daily homilies, and possibly a Livestream Mass. Use FlockNote! Online contributions will be set up and available, and access to FORMED.

As Jesus said, "Be not afraid (Lk. 12:4)." With my prayers, asking Blessed Mary's protection,

Sincerely yours in Christ,



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