

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION  
DRIVE - THRU



THE MASS  
LIVE STREAMED



MEETINGS - VIDEO  
CONFERRING  
ZOOM

# OMPH NEWSLETTER

## PASTOR'S LETTER

*“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”  
Isaiah 41:10*

March 27, 2020

My dear friends,

During the past several weeks, we have quickly seen the coronavirus/COVID-19 grow from an overseas threat to one that is now a present reality for all of us. I wish to reassure you that during the past week, our Parish and the Diocese have responded promptly to this ever changing situation by implementing the recommendations from our public health professionals in order to prevent the spread of this virus. This week, Bishop Gainer announced that, out of great concern for the faithful, he is temporarily suspending all daily and weekend public Masses in the Diocese and is asking parishes to close their buildings.

Please understand these requests are for your safety, the safety of your fellow Parishioners, the safety of those at-risk family members living at home with our Parishioners, the safety of our Parish Staff, and yes, the safety of your Pastor. In no way are we removing God. On the contrary, we are greatly increasing our online presence and are providing a range of resources for your continued spiritual growth. As your Pastor, please be assured of my continued prayers for you, your families, my brother priests and deacons, our religious, and all those affected by this virus.

These rapidly changing circumstance may lead some to experience feelings of panic, fear, worry, and doubt. As we read in Isaiah, our Lord tells us to not fear for He is always with us and will uphold us during times of trouble.

Mary, Our Mother  
Pray for us



St. Joseph, Pray for  
us



I pray that all of us will first face these times with prayer, asking for our Lord's healing for the sick, protection for those caring for the ill, and for His comforting hands on those who are fearful. Next, although the doors to our Parish are closed, we should continue to find ways to live our faith and to also find strength through the Word of God. Our Parish will be live streaming daily Mass on our website - [omph.org](http://omph.org) and on our Facebook Page. Even if you are able to watch a live-streamed Mass, I highly encourage you as a family to use the Sunday Prayer at Home resource that has been sent out.

The mission of Our Mother of Perpetual Help Parish will continue during these times. But in order to continue our work, we need your support. I ask you to pray for our Parish, our Diocese and our Country. I also ask for your continued financial support. Without your gifts, our Parish will struggle to continue our most basic functions. I know these times are challenging, but I humbly ask for your continued financial support so that we may continue our vital functions. Gifts can be made by mailing your check to the Parish, or through using our online system at <https://www.osvonlinegiving.com/4232>.

Thank you for your continued support of OMPH. May God keep you safe, continue to bless you and your families, and keep us all in His loving care.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Father John Murray, C.Ss.R.

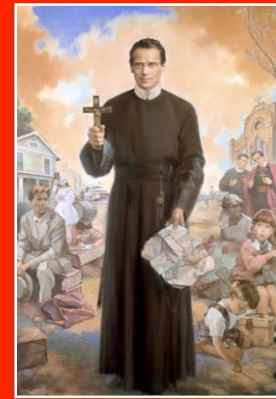
## ONE MORE NOTE

We have been hearing the term "social distancing" in the news a lot lately and with good reason. I would like to suggest that we use another term when speaking about how we should separate the physical space between each other - physically distancing! I heard a rabbi using this term a week ago, and just yesterday I heard a physician from Atlanta use the same term.

The term "physically distancing" is what we should all be doing so COVID-19 does not continue to spread from one person to another. As Christians and as members of the Body of Christ we are all connected and especially at this time we should be looking for ways we can remind each other that we are "connected" in the love of Jesus Christ that binds us together and nothing can separate us.

In this newsletter I will be sharing with you the ways that the parish is attempting to reach out to all of you, especially the most vulnerable.

*Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos*, a Redemptorist missionary, we humbly beseech your intercession!



In 1860 Fr. Francis Seelos was proposed as a candidate for the office of Bishop of Pittsburgh. Having been excused from this responsibility by Pope Pius IX, from 1863 until 1866 he dedicated himself to the life of an itinerant missionary preaching in English and German in the states of Connecticut, Illinois, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Wisconsin.

After a brief period of parish ministry in Detroit, Michigan, he was assigned in 1866 to the Redemptorist community in New Orleans, Louisiana. Here also, as pastor of the Church of St. Mary of the Assumption, he was known as a pastor who was joyously available to his faithful and singularly concerned for the poorest and the most abandoned. IN God's plan, however, his ministry in New Orleans was destined to be brief.

In the month of September, exhausted from visiting and caring for the victims of yellow fever, he contracted the dreaded disease. After several weeks of patiently enduring his illness, he passed on to eternal life on October 4, 1867, at the age of 48 years and 9 months. His Holiness Pope John Paul II, proclaimed Father Seelos Blessed in St. Peter's Square on April 9th of the Solemn Jubilee Year 2000. His Feast Day is October 5.

Let us pray that our elected officials govern us wisely, for our health care workers and first responders who care for us and come to our need, and for the sick and the dying, that they may be comforted by the healing touch of Jesus, and let us pray for Pope Francis and all our religious leaders for strength and courage during these most difficult days.

Let us pray through the intercession of Mary, Our Mother of Perpetual Help that she watch over and protect all of us just as she cared for her loving son.

God bless,

Fr. John

## **WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### ***OMPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL***

While our school is closed, we are continuing our student’s learning through online remote learning. Our goal is to prevent our students from suffering any educational loss during this unpredicted time out of the classroom.

OMPH is currently accepting registrations for the 2020-2021 school year and we would love for you to join our family in our new school.

During our closure, we will still be able to respond to emails. If you are interested in information about the 2020-2021 school year please contact our school principal, Mrs. Patricia Foltz, MM, - [pfoltz@omph.org](mailto:pfoltz@omph.org)

### ***PRAYER IDEAS FOR THE FAMILY***

The family is the “Domestic Church.” This is the first ‘church’ where we are taught to pray and to love God. This is an opportune time for families to come together and pray - perhaps in new and different ways. I have enclosed below a wonderful website with many varied prayers.

Also, I have enclosed at the end of this newsletter a program for ***Sunday Prayer at Home*** that can be prayed by the entire family. Since families are unable to receive the Eucharist at this time, the faithful are encouraged to make a ***Spiritual Communion*** (enclosed) which is encouraged by many of the saints including St. Alphonsus Ligouri.

<http://www.catholicfamilyfaith.org/praying.html>

### ***HOLY WEEK LITURGIES***

- ✦ All Holy Week Liturgies have been canceled
- ✦ Holy Week Liturgies will be celebrated privately and can be viewed on Live Streaming (see Web site, or Facebook).
- ✦ Palm will be blessed, saved, and given out at a later date.

### ***MASS INTENTIONS***

Masses that were scheduled will still be said in private. To schedule a new Mass intention, please call the Parish Office at 717-733-9641.

### **How We are Reaching out to our Parishioners**

- ✦ A parish team has been formed - **OMPH CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE TEAM** - to come up with ways to reach out to OMPH parishioners. We will be meeting on ZOOM. Our first meeting is Friday, March 27.
- ✦ We will start **LIVE STREAMING** daily and weekend Mass as of March 29. We will live stream the 9:00 and 11:00 Mass on Sunday the 9:00 weekday Mass. Classes, instructions, holy hours, etc. eventually will be available via live streaming. Schedule will be published.
- ❖ Live streaming can be accessed on our parish website and Facebook.
- ✦ **DRIVE THRU CONFESSION** are being heard in the front of the church in the car port. We ask you not to come to confession if you are not feeling well, we ask you to respect the parking instructions for safety. Also, only one person per car should come to the drive thru to receive the sacrament of reconciliation.
- ❖ Confessions are Wednesdays 10:00am-11:00am, 4:00pm-5:00pm and Saturday 4:00pm-5:00pm.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**



**Religious Education Corner:**

**This Week's Corporal Work of Mercy**

Care For The Sick:

Make a meal for a friend/neighbor who has a family member with a chronic health condition.

Visit with an elderly neighbor, friend or family member.

Volunteer to help at a local nursing home.

**This Week's Spiritual Work of Mercy**

Forgive Offenses:

Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

(Drive thru Confession)

Let go of grudges.

Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet

**In our Thought and Prayers**

Jane Muldowney, Anna Leshner, Florence Windish, Gloria & Basil Reynolds, Patrick Michael Ward, Jody Shimp, Megan Kreider, John Mento, Anna Finkey, Phoenix Rann, Joanne Dever, Josie Novotnak, Mary Stanavage, Mary Ann Wilk, Theresa Foley, Tom Trachte, Kody Ingham, Mary Kay Guthrie, Diane Lerman, Ron Pogwist, Philomena Rozario, Beverly Benning, Julie Leone, Joe Columbo, Lael Swank, Diane Lerman, Barbara Beebe, Sean Hanrahan, Mary Crawford, Barbara Szobonya and Pat Fry.



**Prayer to our Patroness for Protection**

Holy Virgin of Guadalupe, Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas.  
We fly to you today as your beloved children.  
We ask you to intercede for us with your Son, as you did at the wedding in Cana.  
Pray for us, loving Mother,  
and gain for our nation and world,  
and for all our families and loved ones,  
the protection of your holy angels,  
that we may be spared the worst of this illness.  
For those already afflicted,  
we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance.  
Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful,  
wipe away their tears and help them to trust.  
In this time of trial and testing,  
teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be patient and kind.  
Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts.  
We come to you with confidence,  
knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother,  
health of the sick and cause of our joy.  
Shelter us under the mantle of your protection,  
keep us in the embrace of your arms,  
help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus. Amen.

*PS. Our bulletin company has been shut down, this is a work in progress.*