

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC PARISH

620 NORTH CEDAR BLUFF ROAD
KNOXVILLE, TN 37923-2229

I just want to spend some time expressing my deep gratitude to all of you for your cooperation, communication, and giving and generous spirit particularly during the last several weeks. I especially want to thank all of our staff and volunteers who so generously helped with our first weekend of public Masses. The process of keeping everyone as safe as possible went as smoothly as I could hope and required many helpers.

For those of you reluctant to attend public Mass due to the safety procedures, I would say that it should continue to go well as we continue to put these practices into place but continue to use your judgement. The Bishop's dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass is still in effect and we will continue our regular live stream schedule. Anyone 5 years and older, still must wear a mask.

I want to also encourage those who do not yet feel safe coming to Mass to continue to do what you feel safe doing. Even though our cases per capita are still relatively low, our cases in Knox County are on the rise percentage wise. If you need additional information, stay tuned to the Knox County Health Department site.

I also cannot say enough about your generosity. We are incredibly blessed by your faithful giving during this time. It is extremely gratifying to see how you continue to express your love and appreciation of the church through your cooperation, giving, and loving spirit. It encourages me and all of our community to see that we continue to thrive and adapt and serve God and neighbor despite many obstacles.

Our spirits may be down but please take heart in the Lord and hope and pray for blessings from our suffering and the world's tribulations. When it comes to worldwide use of scripture, I have to believe that John 3:16 is the most quoted and known; and it is our Gospel this Sunday. In a time when our country is divided, let us pray for our country and a return to God.

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

It would be easy to be disheartened now if we listen to the news and world all day. I encourage you to feed your soul with scripture and other spiritual reading/practices rather than what might bring you down and fearful.

Even though some activities are resuming, please let me or the office know if you need any assistance as we are still experiencing many challenges.

Lastly, since we were not able to have our Adult Social but had already received some auction items, I have attached a flyer with that information and here is a link also. <http://www.as2020.givesmart.com>
Peace be with you all,

Fr. Doug