

Dear Parishioners,

I pray and hope that you and your families are well and healthy! As we continue to journey through these uncertain times, be assured of my continued prayers for you all, and also be assured of how much I am looking forward to the day when we will be able to meet together in person for the celebration of Mass and other parish functions.

I would like to update you on a few matters. First of all, I once again wish to sincerely thank you for all of your generous financial donations that have been given to our parishes. It is such a wonderful blessing as a pastor to see that kind of generous giving from all of you, especially during these difficult times. Thank you!

I also would like to let you know about a good and helpful development in each of our parishes. As many of you may know, part of the congressional stimulus package that was passed several weeks ago was what is called the Paycheck Protection Program, which is a federal loan that is being offered through the Small Business Administration to small businesses, non-profit organizations, and religious institutions and churches, to assist in helping them to be able to keep their employees from having to be furloughed or let-go due to the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Diocese of Duluth encouraged pastors to apply for this loan to assist in keeping parish staff working, especially since, thankfully, in our state of Minnesota, parish employees have been classified as essential workers. I am pleased to inform you that both of our parishes received this loan, which equates to approximately 2.5 times what we would pay our employees in an average month. Provided that the parishes use this loan solely for the purposes of employee payroll and utilities, we will be able to apply for the loan to be forgiven (essentially changed from a loan to a grant). These monies will greatly assist our parishes in supplementing our payroll expenses, and so helping the mission of our parishes to continue to flourish by encouraging and assisting people in our church, and in our broader community.

I would also like to take a moment to thank our parish staff members for their incredibly hard work. I must admit that I thought when the stay-at-home order began that our workload at the parishes would be significantly slowed. However, the opposite has been the case. Due to the extra administrative work, and the burgeoning electronic meeting opportunities, our staff has been putting in hours of hard work to help spread the Gospel message and continue to serve all of you to the best of their abilities. I am especially grateful for how so many of our parish staff members have been willing to work non-typical days and times in order to address parish needs and ministry opportunities. In both of our parishes, we are blessed with an incredibly gifted and dedicated staff, and as pastor, I wish to thank them.

Here's some of the things that we have been doing during the time of the shutdown- As a parish we are continuing to serve all of you through prayer, keeping you up-to-date via the website and email, publishing the bulletin, answering your phone calls, setting up electronic giving options, organizing virtual meetings for RCIA and Bible studies, planning, practicing and carrying out live streams of the Easter Triduum and Sunday Masses, cleaning the church constantly to keep you safe when you come to pray, doing maintenance that is easier done during low traffic times, such as painting, and more. It is our joy and honor to serve all of you, the parishioners, and we are grateful for such wonderful parish families!

Below you will find upcoming events and happenings at the Church or online. May God bless you today and every day!

Yours in Christ,

Father Steve Laflamme

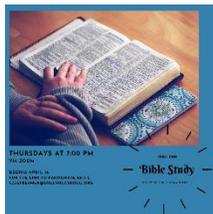
**Sunday Mass on April 26, 2020 will once again be live-streamed beginning at 10:00am, this weekend from St. Mary's in Silver Bay.** You can go to your parish's website to find the link to the YouTube live-stream.

**Eucharistic Adoration** is available at each parish: **At St. Mary's**, Eucharistic Adoration will take place from 11:00am until 3:00pm on Wednesdays. **At Holy Spirit**, Eucharistic Adoration will take place from 8:00am until 12:00pm on Fridays. Please note that there will **not** be solemn Benediction at the end of adoration, but rather, adoration will end with a simple reposition of the Blessed Sacrament. *If you come for Eucharistic Adoration, please observe social distancing requirements and remain at least six feet apart from one another.*

**The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available at the following times and places:**

**Holy Spirit:** Saturdays from 3:30pm – 4:30pm in one of the classrooms in the education center.

**St. Mary's:** Saturdays from 6:30pm – 7:30pm in the crying room in the back of Church.



**Virtual Bible Study:** You can still participate in the virtual Bible study which is being led by Cassi Beamer. This Bible study is focused on the upcoming Sunday Gospels so you can jump in at any point. It takes place on Thursdays from 7:00pm – 7:40pm. If you are interested, please email Cassi Beamer at the address below so she can send you an electronic invitation. Thank you!  
[Cassi.beamer@duluthcatholic.org](mailto:Cassi.beamer@duluthcatholic.org)



**Music Selections:** Rosemary has also put together a list of meditative and other spiritual music to listen to. These are listed with links on the same website.

**Ways of Faith Podcast:** Don't forget to check out your parish website to hear Father Steve's daily podcast during this time of the suspension of public Masses. Each podcast is brief (less than 15 minutes) and is meant to help bolster our understanding and appreciation of our faith. Just go to your parish website and click on the "Ways of Faith" button on the main home page.

**Both Holy Spirit and St. Mary's Churches are open for personal prayer.** See your parish's website for times when your Church is open.