

DAY 30

Last weekend was Easter and it was a joy to see so many of you come to church to make a visit. We continue to be open daily (except for Monday) and on the weekend. Please check the website for hours, for as we have all learned by now - everything is subject to change.

Today I want to tell you about something I observed this past weekend. I was in church praying the Divine Office when a mother and her two young daughters came into church. It was Saturday evening, the time they were accustomed to coming to church before all of this began. The two girls (I'm guessing ages 7 and 4) were dressed in what were obviously their new Easter dresses and carrying their Easter bonnets. The three of them went into a pew and knelt to offer their prayers to God. I dared not disturb them as they prayed so I went back to my own prayers. They stayed a while, lit some candles and then were on their way.

I reflected upon this in the silence of the church. This mother was teaching her children a very beautiful and valuable lesson. *This is what we do.* What was obviously a tradition in their family was not going to be stopped by a pandemic. What they were doing was more important. It was Easter and even though there was no Mass to attend, God could still be visited in His house. Even though there was an empty church and no one to see their Easter finery they nonetheless dressed for God. It was the most moving scene I have witnessed here and I am grateful to God that I was here to see it.

I encourage all of you to not let this difficult time take everything away from you. We cannot attend Mass, yet we can still make a brief visit to Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. If you cannot get out or if it is too dangerous for you, then do what Padre Pio would tell you to do - send your Guardian Angel to visit for you. Make a daily Spiritual Communion. Grow in desire to receive Our Lord in Holy Communion. Make a daily Act of Contrition and tell Our Lord how sorry you are for your sins and how much you love Him. Use this time to grow in the love of God.

This is going to end soon. There is going to be a time when we return to the business of our lives. How many will once again become too busy to go to Mass or too busy to stop and pray? I tell you we are going to miss the calm and quiet of these times. Don't waste the opportunity that God has given you in the midst of this trial. Life is the Cross. Embrace it and grow closer to Him.

THANK YOU

Each weekend there is a basket into which visitors are dropping their envelopes. Thank you for your continued financial sacrifice for our parish. We are so grateful to all who have subscribed to online giving and to those who have mailed in their weekly envelopes. We realize that this situation has placed an emotional and financial burden on many of you. Please know that I remember you in my daily Mass intentions.

This situation has also put a strain on our parish's budget and has the potential to impact our mission. If you are able, I ask that you please consider signing up for online giving or mailing in your weekly envelopes. A new "Text to Give" option has also been developed, enabling you to make a weekly donation to your parish on your smart phone. To access information regarding this innovative form of giving as well as our online giving program, please go to our parish website or call us, we will gladly walk you through the process.

Please pray join me in praying for our first responders, our doctors and nurses, and all those in our Catholic ministries who are helping on the front lines. I pray for you all constantly that we may be able to return to the rightful worship of God in the Sacraments. Thank you and may God bless you and your families.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mass is still being offered everyday - just not publicly. There are many daily and weekend Mass intentions open and available for you to have offered for your loved ones. Email or call the parish. Your message will be returned and we will arrange for your intentions to be offered.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Taken from *Visits to the Blessed Sacrament and the Blessed Virgin Mary* by Saint Alphonsus Liguori. Published by Tan Books.

PRAYER TO END THE PANDEMIC

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.

ANOTHER PRAYER FOR DURING THE PANDEMIC

O clement, O loving, O sweet Mother Mary,
We, your children of every nation,
Turn to you in this pandemic.
Our troubles are numerous; our fears are great.
Grant that we might deposit them at your feet,
Take refuge in your Immaculate Heart,
And obtain peace, healing, rescue,
And timely help in all our needs.
You are our Mother.
Pray for us to your Son.
Amen.

SURRENDER TO THE WILL OF GOD

The following quote comes from a very powerful prayer, the *Novena of Surrender to the Will of God* composed by Father Don Dolindo Ruotolo † 1882-1970. There is a link to it on our website under the “Prayers” tab.

You see evil growing instead of weakening?

Do not worry,

Close your eyes and say to me with faith:

“Thy will be done, You take care of it.”

I say to you that I will take care of it,
and that I will intervene as does a doctor
and I will accomplish miracles when they are needed.

Do you see that the sick person is getting worse?

Do not be upset, but close your eyes and say

“You take care of it.”

I say to you that I will take care of it,
and that there is no medicine more powerful
than my loving intervention.

By my love, I promise this to you.

