

DAY 42

We have now been in our houses for more than 40 days. That's longer than lent. If you are feeling like this has gone on long enough - you are not alone. According to the governor we still have two weeks left. Hopefully there will be a little relief at that time and certain things may begin to open up.

In case we are stuck inside longer (which may be the case for some of us) I encourage you to look at two websites that offer "courses" in spiritual things. One is goodcatholic.com and the other is catechismclass.com. Both offer good Catholic material to aid prayer and study. Also, FORMED is available for everyone in the parish. It provides Catholic movies and course type work as well. I don't want to hear you were eating White Castle and watching "90 Day Fiancé" when you could have been nurturing your soul.

The church is still open daily (except Monday) for visits. 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.

MOTHER'S DAY

Mother's Day is next weekend (May 10th). We continue the tradition of the Mother's Day Novena of Masses. A novena (9) of Masses will be offered for the intentions of your mothers, grandmothers, godmothers, step-mothers, and any other motherly figure that has graced your life. Please send in your Mother's Day envelope with the names of your intended. The intentions of each Mass for nine days will be for the souls (living and dead) of your mothers. Moms still need prayers. Perhaps more now than ever...

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.

ST. ANTHONY THE GREAT – PATRON OF THOSE AFFECTED BY INFECTIOUS DISEASES

One of the greatest saints of the early Church, Anthony was one of the first monks and is considered the founder and father of organized Christian monasticism. He organized disciples into a community and these communities eventually spread throughout Egypt. Anthony is known as Anthony the Great, Anthony of Egypt, Anthony of the Desert, and Anthony of Thebes. He is also known as the Father of All Monks. His feast day is celebrated on January 17. St. Anthony the Great is also invoked as a patron against infectious diseases.

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.

