

ST ANDREW

Sunday Bulletin – 4th Sunday of Lent – March 22, 2020

Parish letter

A letter sharing a great deal of information about our response to the coronavirus was mailed this past week. You perhaps received it by Saturday. If you did not, please let us know: rschremmer@dcdiocese.org or 227-3363,

The basic message was that all liturgies and activities of our Parish are cancelled at the direction of our Bishop. This was done in concert with the other three Bishops of Kansas. Their action reflects the response of the vast majority of diocese throughout the US and even the world.

It seems that religious gatherings have been identified as the source that spread the virus in Korea and in France.

Mass

All public liturgies throughout the State, a very large part of the US, as well as, around the world have been cancelled. All in an effort to respond, out of love, which always has an ingredient of sacrifice, to stem the spread of the coronavirus.

In a strange irony, we withdraw from community for the sake of community. We are asked to put aside our own preferences and maybe even our own opinions for the welfare of others.

Priests are asked to continue to offer the Sacrifice of the Mass privately - praying for the intentions of the faithful. I am doing that – honoring specific intentions, as well as, all our intentions.

This is a new experience for me. It is worth noting that we offer the Eucharist as Christ's gift to the Father in the Spirit. This means no matter how many people

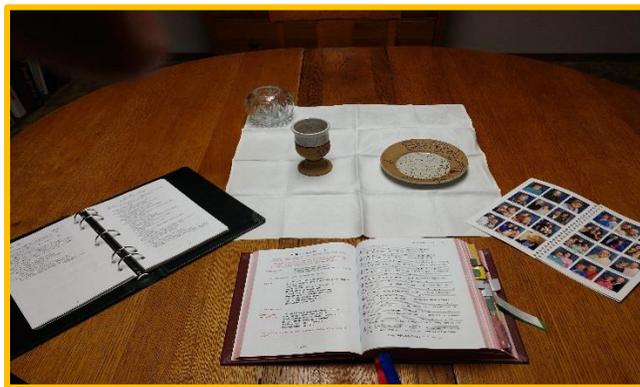
gather for Eucharist we are united with the Christ in offering his perfect prayer. We are all members of that one Body of Christ as Saint Paul proclaimed so clearly in his letters.

So we are all in this together...not virtually...but mystically.

I read of an Italian priest in a small Italian village, perhaps much like Wright. Oh, no, it was in the Alps. Well...

He asked his parishioners to send him pictures of themselves so he could look at them as he spread them around and offered Mass. He was surprised. He got pictures not only from his parishioners but from almost everybody in the village and then he began receiving them from all other the world.

You do not have to send me your pictures. We have them in our Pictorial Directory. Thank you, Altar Society. So this is what it looks like when my table becomes an altar for Mass:



This week in addition to offering Mass for the intentions of all our Parishioners on Sunday, I will remember in special intention:

Monday: Al Schremmer

Tuesday: Nick Salmans

Wednesday: Norbert & Clara Irsik

Thursday: Helen Lix & Alice Zurbuchen

Friday: Charles Helfrich

Saturday: Fr. Dermot Tighe

Staying Connected

At our last Pastoral Council Meeting, it was decided that the members would reach out to parishioners with a phone call to stay connected and to see if they were doing ok. We drew up a list of parishioners who we felt might warrant extra care. If you would appreciate such a call from time to time or would wish to be one who would commit to making such calls, let us know: rschremmer@dcdioocese.org or 227-3363. Maybe you have someone you feel we should reach out to.

Funerals

We are confused. Our Bishop along with the other Bishops of Kansas directed that if there were to be a funeral, no more than fifty people could participate.

Recently in Dodge, there was a funeral where this was strictly enforced by the police.

Now the Governor says that she did not intend to limit funerals. So far our Bishop is continuing with his (and so many other Bishops and authorities directives) to continue to limit participation to 50 people.

These are drastic times. It is so regrettable that people who mourn as asked to give up more than their loved one at the time of their death.

Father Dermot Tighe

Father Tighe served as pastor of Saint Andrew, 1977-84. Fr. Tighe, 89, died on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 2020, at Via Christi St. Francis in Wichita. He was born August 4, 1930, to James Tighe and Sarah (McDermott) Tighe in Strokestown, Ireland, county of Roscommon. He was the youngest of ten.

Fr. Tighe had a stroke the evening of the 16th, was taken to the hospital and died the next morning. Those with him said his death was peaceful. A private Funeral Mass was celebrated Thursday at St. Patrick in Great Bend. He was buried in the Dominican Sisters' Cemetery in Great Bend. A public Memorial Mass will be held at a later date due to restrictions and limitations due to the current virus pandemic.

Let us hold Fr. Tighe and all our beloved dead in our prayer.

Stewardship

We discussed our parish stewardship via an email meeting of our Finance Council and a phone conference meeting of our Pastoral Council.

These are uncertain times for all us. This includes uncertainty about our financial stability. Due to the wise direction over many years of our Finance Councils and most of all due to responsible, faithful, generous, and even sacrificial stewardship of our Parishioners, we as a parish can weather this storm. This is true even as we have recently undertaken two long-standing projects: the additional restroom in church and replacing the windows in the vestibule so as to keep more heat out during the summer and more heat in during the winter.

Families will have varying degrees of ability to support the mission and life of our parish, diocese, and world-wide Church especially during this crisis.

With no liturgies, there are ways you can continue to give your stewardship offerings:

If you have not done so, you may wish to sign up for online giving. A number of our parishioners have been giving this way for some time now.

It is simple and it provides various ways of making the payments:

<https://www.parishgiving.org/index>.

You may mail your offering: PO Box 125, Wright, KS 67882

You may drop it by the church. You may slip it under the door to the west sacristy. That's up from by the statues of Joseph and Mary. There's a sign on the door.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT...for March 15th: \$2,265.00 in envelopes; \$46.00 in loose; \$182.50. Thank you to our faithful stewards for supporting our parish, diocese, and world-wide Church.