A letter from our Pastor Fr. David O’Connor

Coronavirus Pandemic Update

A lot has happened in our country and state since last week, and the situation continues to change. Firstly, we are a parish, people of prayer and action devoted to God. We depend upon him and the gifts of healing and forgiveness of Jesus. We are always God’s people and will continue to love and serve him as a parish during this pandemic. As a part of this, we will cooperate with the Archdiocese, national, state and local government and agencies.

I’d like to share these matters with you:

- Pandemics can cause anxiety and panic. Remember that God alone is our strength. Turn to him, pray and trust in him.
- The parish office is operating, but services may not be convenient pending the adjustments we have to make to the changing circumstances and if staff members become ill or exposed to the coronavirus.
- Weekend and daily Masses are occurring.
- Per the Pandemic Response Plan of the Archdiocese, the following is being done:
  - The Holy Water fonts have been emptied. Holy Water is available in the work sacristy located behind the sanctuary.
  - Distribution of the Precious Blood has been temporarily discontinued.
  - With respect and sensitivity, those who ordinarily receive Holy Communion on the tongue are asked to receive communion in the hand.
  - When receiving Holy Communion in the hand, the consecrated host will be placed on your hand vertically. We ask that you cup your hand in a way that it may be received and not fall out of your hand.
  - Please do not hold hands while praying the Our Father. Feel free to use the universal “orans” prayer gesture.
  - The exchange of the Sign of Peace during Mass may be done without physical contact. A warm wave of the hand or a respectful bow of the head will do nicely.
  - If you are sick or experiencing symptoms of sickness, or at risk, you are not obliged to attend Mass.
  - Practice good hygiene. Wash your hands.
  - Cough and sneeze into your sleeve and not your hand.

All that I shared with you is the way I desire to care for you and to continue to address the needs of the parish during this extraordinary time. Keep praying, loving God and one another and being of support to one another. Holy Mary, Mother of God. Pray for us! St. Joseph, protector of the Church and our holy patron, pray for us!