

March 17, 2020

Greetings Parishioners,

This Lent will certainly be a Lent to remember. I know the cancellation of Masses throughout the Archdiocese of Cincinnati has caused many emotions: many are surprised, others are fearful about what will happen, and still others are upset as our usual routines are thrown into chaos. Other people have lost their jobs or had their occupations affected negatively by the government's reaction to the virus.

I encourage everyone to remember that God is greater than any virus or chaos caused in our nation! He is unchanging, and abundant grace is available at this very moment. Perhaps this is a chance for us to embrace a renewed appreciation for the sacraments. We can often take things for granted until we go without them. Perhaps this is a time for a renewed intensity in our life of prayer. Often we trust too much in the world around us and not in God.

For those who are spending extra time confined to their homes, I encourage you to use that time to enhance your life of prayer. Make this Lent into more of a retreat, with time to listen to the voice of God and place our trust in Him. Check out the Divine Mercy talks on the parish website. Please heed Our Lady's request to pray the rosary daily! We need Mary's intercession now more than ever!

Confessions will still be available on Thursday evenings (1st, 3rd, and 5th Thursdays at St. Patrick, 2nd and 4th Thursdays at St. Mary of the Woods). If any of the homebound desire to receive the Eucharist, contact the parish office.

There will be Masses livestreamed on the Archdiocese of Cincinnati website and Masses that can be viewed on EWTN. I will be posting a homily on our parish website each weekend. I encourage households to gather at the time they would ordinarily go to weekend Masses and read the Mass readings (available on the USCCB website), make an act of spiritual communion, and unite their hearts to the Mass I will be offering privately at that time. I included an act of spiritual communion below.

I encourage people to limit your exposure to the media; don't spend all day listening to reports about the coronavirus. A lot of the reports are not balanced and are scaring people needlessly. It may help to keep things in perspective. 50,000 people died this year in the U.S. as a result of the flu; less than a hundred have died in the U.S. (as of the time I write this) of the coronavirus. We have survived viruses before, and we will make it through this one.

Thank you to everyone who has been praying for me, and know that I am praying for you as well. I am offering Mass each day for you and your intentions. I will be saying all the Masses privately that were previously scheduled, so all Mass intentions will be honored. For those who are able, I encourage you to continue to support the parish financially. We will be losing several Sunday collections, and I anticipate that there might be a lot more people in need of financial help soon if there is not a quick turn-around in the economy.

With Prayers,

Father Shawn Landenwitch

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
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.