

March 15, 2020
Third Sunday of Lent

Dear Parishioners of Saint Petronille,

Status of Activities at Parish

Because of concern over the spread of Covid-19, Bishop Pates dispensed from the obligation to attend Mass this weekend, March 14-15, and suspended large group Masses and events. We have not yet been informed if this practice will be in place next weekend or not. Because certain events include less than the cut off of 250 people, all weekday Masses will occur as usual, i.e., 6:15 am Monday through Friday and 8 am Monday through Saturday. Stations of the cross, baptisms, weddings, funerals, rosary and all other smaller liturgical events have not been suspended and will still take place as usual. We ask that those attending these events, who are not living together, remain at least 10 feet apart from one another. We will hear confessions at the regular times, but we ask that penitents remain behind the screen and not face to face. The parish offices will still be open Monday through Wednesday this week, but they will be closed on Thursday and Friday for a very deep cleaning and sanitizing. Our parish school and faith formation departments will remain closed until further notice.

You may log onto the US Bishops webpage www.usccb.org to obtain the daily readings. The texts of my homilies of the last several weeks will soon be posted on our parish webpage. An audio file of my homily from today will soon be available.

How to handle all this?

As we comply with the State of Illinois guidelines in an effort to stem the spread of the coronavirus, we face numerous social, personal and spiritual challenges. None of us wants to be in this position, but our Lord also gives us an opportunity to deepen our faith and show our love for others beyond what we would have imagined. First, we offer all of our fears, sacrifices and struggles to the Lord not just grinning and bearing it but offering them specifically for the good of another. Second, if you have more time at home spend this constructively: taking time for prayer that you would not otherwise have; reading or learning a topic you have wanted to learn but didn't have the time; renew relationships within the family and taking family time which escaped you previously. Third, if you are strong and in good health, don't forget your neighbors especially those who are infirm, elderly or sick. Make sure they have what they need. There are ways to do this without exposing yourself or others to the virus. Covid-19 is not transmitted through phone lines or the internet. One important way that you can help is by contributing imperishable food items to the **local food pantry**. March is Saint Petronille's month to support the food pantry and without Masses the food pantry is going dry. Because the church continues to be open during regular hours, please drop your imperishable items in the vestibule of the church or parish office and we will make sure the food pantry gets them.

Keeping the faith

Regarding your faith life and Sunday obligation, each Sunday gather with those in your household to read the scriptures of the day, pray the Our Father and then offer a spiritual communion, cf. below.

Further, without our regular Sunday Masses, the parish also goes without our regular Sunday collection. As you know, Saint Petronille was just coming out of some serious financial struggles when all this hit. Please continue to support your parish financially either on-line or by mailing-in or dropping-off your donation at the office.

The priests continue to offer all the Masses scheduled for the intentions indicated in the bulletin and previously scheduled. Let us keep one another in prayer and the love of Christ,

In Christ,

Fr. Thomas Milota

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.”