

March 18, 2020

Dear Parishioners of Saint Petronille,

Prayer and Hope

The result of a problem for which we have no clear defense causes fear. Fear can be helpful if it does not cripple our ability to make good decisions and ability to respond to needs. Fear, however, that cripples or dejects is not healthy or fruitful. We need to fight against this fear by lifting our hearts and minds to the Lord of Life and Love. Attached to this email is a Novena prayer that can be prayed during this difficult time. This prayer can be said daily.

Bishop Pates Video

Bishop Pates sent us all a beautiful video reassuring us and inviting us to keep our hope up. See it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y4hanuidhJ0>

Bishop Pates has also abrogated our obligation to attend Sunday Mass this weekend. Our church will remain open Monday through Friday – 5:00 am to 3:00 pm; Saturday – 7:00 am to 6 pm; Sunday from 6:30 am to 6 pm. We should have our live streaming of the 5 pm and 930 am Mass up and running by this weekend. We will communicate this information to you later in the week.

Fr. Art and Fr. John Update

Fr. Art and Fr. John are doing well. As you know, the President, Governor and CDC have asked elderly to refrain from unnecessary contact in that they are high-risk for infection and serious consequences if they were to get sick. In fact, nursing homes are in complete lockdown. Although difficult for them not to interact with all of you, they are complying with these directives. Shortly after I arrived, we obtained permission to establish a chapel and reserve the Blessed Sacrament in the rectory for situations like this. Hence, Fr. John and Fr. Art offer the Most Holy Sacrifice of the Mass each and every day for your well-being, spiritual and physical.

Senior Services

Staff, our Saint Vincent DePaul and parish volunteers are in the process of phoning all parishioners 75 and over. If you are aware of anyone with special needs or at high risk or if you would be interested in volunteering, please email me (frmilota@outlook.com) or Tanya Singh (singht@stpetschurch.org) or phone the parish line to leave a message (630-469-0404, ext. 2100). You can also volunteer at Giving Dupage – (<https://givingdupage.galaxydigital.com>).

Stay in Touch with the Village

It is important to stay connected with the Village during this time. We will continue to share updates and information on our website at www.glenellyn.org/covid and through our social media channels including Facebook (@VillageofGlenEllyn) and Twitter (@VillageofGE). Additional information may be sent through the Village's e-newsletter mailing list. If you are not already signed up, please take a moment to sign up (<http://www.glenellyn.org/533/Sign-up-for-E-Newsletter>) **here**. Residents can also sign-up for the Village's emergency alerting system that could be used should circumstances warrant. To sign up to receive alerts via email or text, visit (<https://www.glenellyn.org/AlertCenter.aspx>) **here**. For

those without internet access, updates can be heard on the Village's information radio station, AM 1620 KHz. The Federal Government has established the page www.coronavirus.gov.

Starting to Get Cabin Fever? Try FORMED!

Try FORMED! If you haven't logged into FORMED, you are missing out on an incredible collection of Catholic movies, talks, books, Bible studies, catechesis and more!!! It's free to you because St. Petronille pays the subscription cost. It is easier than ever to register and access all the content YOU want. Here's how to get FORMED:

Register more easily – no more passwords or codes! All you have to do is go to stpetchurch.formed.org, choose "St. Petronille, Glen Ellyn, IL" from the drop-down menu, enter your name and email address, and you're in! You can get the FORMED app for your phone or tablet. Content is constantly being added. Login to stpetchurch.formed.org to connect or re-connect with your Catholic faith on demand!

Formed for Kids

Since yesterday was the Feast of Saint Patrick, the cartoon about Saint Patrick would be a good one for the kids to watch. Worried about the young people of your home not keeping up with their faith formation? There is a whole section specifically for youth. You could do a Bible Study with them by following along one of the Bible Studies on Formed.

Formed for the Whole Family

The whole family could watch the Sunday Homily provided on Formed. I know they won't be nearly as good as my homily, but its worth a look. You could pray the Stations of the Cross together – also a video on Formed.

Great Stuff! Check it out!

Free Magnificat

Magnificat Magazine is offering its on-line version free of charge during this outbreak. The magazine contains the daily scripture readings, reflections of the day, beautiful artwork and other devotional prayers. You can get it free at <https://us.magnificat.net/free>.

Help the Parish School – Help our Glen Ellyn Community – Help Yourself – All From Home

As you know, our parish school has cancelled their school auction which is the single largest fundraiser for our school year. We continue to employ our teachers as they direct home-schooling efforts of our students and hope to return to school in the near future. Our parish and school depend on the generosity of her parishioners and parents even in the best of times. Since our collections have been radically reduced and we still incur significant expenses that cannot be reduced at the moment, our school parent organization, auction committee and parish/school administration decided to hold a virtual auction. The auction carries with it the added benefit of giving all of you something you can do to feel a part of our community while remaining in the safety of your home and also support the broader community in buying carry-out/delivery gift cards to local restaurants who are suffering significantly as well. If you would like to participate in the virtual school auction, simply log onto:

<https://e.givesmart.com/events/fkU/>

Sunday Collections

As you might know, our Sunday collections have dropped precipitously. Although we have cut numerous costs like reducing our heating bill, trash pick-up, etc., the parish would appreciate any help that you can give. Certainly, we understand that some of our parishioners have been placed in a difficult situation and we are not asking anyone to put themselves in dire straits; however, any help you can give would be much appreciated.

Saint Patrick

Yesterday was Saint Patrick's Day! Saint Patrick was born about 387 most likely in Wales and a Roman citizen. Saint Patrick recounts that he was captured by Irish pirates and brought to Ireland as a slave. Eventually, he would escape but see he vision. He wrote:

"I saw a man coming, as it were from Ireland. His name was Victoricus, and he carried many letters, and he gave me one of them. I read the heading: 'The Voice of the Irish.' As I began the letter, I imagined in that moment that I heard the voice of those very people who were near the wood of Foclut, which is beside the western sea-and they cried out, as with one voice: 'We appeal to you, holy servant boy, to come and walk among us.'"

Patrick responded to the call to go and preach the Gospel to the very people that had captured and enslaved him. Saint Patrick would be used as an instrument to convert thousands to the faith where it would grow and prosper so thoroughly that Patrick would become known as the "Apostle of Ireland" and years later Irish monks would cross into continental Europe during the middle ages to re-evangelize the peoples of the continent. An interesting tidbit of history and the development of our sacraments: the Irish monks are responsible for our present form of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

We can take inspiration from Patrick during these dark days in that he persevered in faith, hope and love. Perhaps, Saint Patrick's "Breastplate" can become our own:

"Christ be within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ inquired, Christ in danger, Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger."

May Almighty God bless you and keep you.

Prayers.

In Christ,

Fr. Thomas Milota