



March 23, 2020

Dear Parishioners of Saint Petronille Parish,

You may not know me, but my name is Mila. I normally work in the parish office, making sure the priests do their job. Today I am working from home sitting at my work station. I am very sad that I cannot be there to meet with you and I knew seeing me would make your day. As you can see, I am stress eating, because I miss all of you. Since Fr. Milota is very busy, he asked me to write you this letter to keep you informed. I am very advanced academically and will make fewer typographical errors than the pastor.

Washing Your Hands

I am an expert both at making my hands dirty and then washing them. One parishioner, who is a healthcare professional, suggested to me that instead of singing Happy Birthday while washing hands, you should, instead, pray a Hail Mary or two while washing your hands. Pray and wash. Pray and wash. I think this is a great idea!

Church Must Remain Closed

Please notice that, by directive of the Bishop, our church is supposed to remain closed until further notice.

LiveStreaming Update

As you know, we began live streaming Sunday Masses this weekend at 5 pm Saturdays and 930 am Sundays. I watched with my mommy and kept touching the screen, because it was so realistic. Beginning Tuesday, we will begin streaming Mass at 8 am Monday through Saturday. We will also have Stations of the Cross at 7 pm on Fridays. You can always watch these videos anytime because they are stored on our YouTube Channel. We suggest that you sign up as a member of our page, because it increases our on-line presence and we can communicate with you about upcoming streaming and send reminders of when we are live. The link to our channel is:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvNo_3DRIBPSBkdhbEB3j7Q?reload=9

If you know someone who does not have access to the internet, please let them know that there is a daily Mass at 7 am, 11 am and 6 pm on EWTN Channel 119 or 1668. WGN has a Mass every Sunday at 930 am.

Saint Petronille Cares - Ministry to Our Refugee Families

We have been and continue to provide support to our refugee families. Anyone wanting to help can drop items (imperishable food, basic necessities) off at 271 Forest Avenue here in Glen Ellyn during the day in the bins provided in her driveway. Our parishioners can donate safely to the bin on their driveway. Their protocol is to wipe every item off with microban before it is shelved in the garage. I am doing this to protect me, my home, and the recipients. Bags will be assembled for pick up on Saturday between 9-noon. People can still drop off gift card or monetary donations in the mailbox outside of the parish office.

Parish School – Invest in Education

The State of Illinois offers an incredible tax break for those who donate to our Catholic School. I have attached two documents which explain the program and how to participate. Please take a look.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Many have asked whether confessions can be heard over the phone. Unfortunately, we cannot give absolution over the phone. We must be in the person's physical presence, but there are a couple of things to know.

First, your priests continue to respond to emergency calls in the event someone in your household is dying. During these visits we typically give absolution, the apostolic pardon (plenary indulgence remitting all temporal punishment due to sin) and the anointing of the sick. If the sick person is able to receive communion, we also give communion called viaticum (Jesus Christ going with you). If you or someone you love has an emergency, simply phone the parish line 630-469-0404 and press '1' when the service answers your call.

Second, the Holy See has just issued some new guidelines permitting general absolution in the event of the pandemic so we can go to nursing homes and hospitals and offer general absolution.

Finally, the Holy See has made the following permissions given the fact that we are living by order of the government in a situation in which the Sacrament of Reconciliation cannot be offered:

a) "Where the individual faithful find themselves in the painful impossibility of receiving sacramental absolution, it should be remembered that perfect contrition, coming from the love of God, beloved above all things, expressed by a sincere request for forgiveness (that which the penitent is at present able to express) and accompanied by votum confessionis, that is, by the firm resolution to have recourse, as soon as possible, to sacramental confession, obtains forgiveness of sins, even mortal ones (cf. CCC, no. 1452)."

- perfect contrition requires
- the love of God
- the sincere desire for forgiveness
- the ardent commitment to receive the sacrament of reconciliation when available

b) "The gift of special Indulgences is granted to the faithful suffering from COVID-19 disease, commonly known as Coronavirus, as well as to health care workers, family members and all those who in any capacity, including through prayer, care for them." This is a time of suffering, especially for those who have contracted COVID-19. As such, it may be a time for us to "rediscover 'the same redemptive suffering of Christ' (Salvifici doloris, 30)."

Trusting in Christ,

- a Plenary indulgence is "granted to the faithful suffering from Coronavirus, who are subject to quarantine by order of the health authority in hospitals or in their own homes if, with a spirit detached from any sin, they unite spiritually through the media to the celebration of Holy Mass, the recitation of the Holy Rosary, to the pious practice of the Way of the Cross or other forms of devotion, or if at least they will recite the Creed, the Lord's Prayer and a pious invocation to the Blessed Virgin Mary, offering this trial in a spirit of faith in God and charity towards their

brothers and sisters, with the will to fulfil the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer according to the Holy Father's intentions), as soon as possible.”

• “Health care workers, family members and all those who, following the example of the Good Samaritan, exposing themselves to the risk of contagion, care for the sick of Coronavirus according to the words of the divine Redeemer: ‘Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends’ (Jn 15: 13), will obtain the same gift of the Plenary Indulgence under the same conditions.”

- An indulgence is “the expression of the Church's full confidence of being heard by the Father when - in view of Christ's merits and, by his gift, those of Our Lady and the saints - she asks him to mitigate or cancel the painful aspect of punishment by fostering its medicinal aspect through other channels of grace” (John Paul II, General Audience, September 29, 1999).
- A plenary indulgence removes all the temporal punishment due to sin (CCC, 1471).

Now I am going to pray:

Now I lay me down to sleep,
I pray the Lord my soul to keep;
May the angels watch me through the night,
and keep me in their blessed sight.
Amen.

God bless you!

With love,

Mila

