

April 30, 2020

Dear Parishioners of Saint Petronille,

Covid-Fatigue

Well...I don't know about you, but this shelter-in-place thing is getting old. Rest assured. This is no critique of leadership or politics or anything of the sort. This is just an acknowledgement that I'm struggling a bit with this. I know I am supposed to be positive, but I thought you might be feeling the same way.

Then, I started thinking about the people who are really struggling and sacrificing during this time. I started thinking of those who have contracted Covid-19 fighting for their lives or, at least, uncertain of their future. I thought of those who have lost beloved family members, moms, dads, children, siblings and friends. I tried to put myself in the shoes of doctors, nurses, caregivers, policeofficers, EMTs, firemen, and many more on the front lines. Wow! My troubles are nothing.

Then, I thought about our Lord...the one that should have captured my thoughts up front. The core of our faith is that we have a Lord who knows exactly what it is to suffer the real struggles of this world. The marks of His crucifixion may be a sign of that which He suffered, but those marks remind His disciples that He conquered suffering, sin and death...He not only made it through but gives us the Grace of eternal life and eternal joy...and a taste of that joy even here and now. He does not abandon us.

Let's lift ourselves up. Remember the tremendous and infinite gift of love our Lord has given and continues to give to us, renewing our commitment to faith, hope and love.

Fr. John 92nd Birthday

Tomorrow, May 1 is Fr. John Sullivan's 92nd birthday. We will have a private celebration here at the rectory (aka Priests' Residence); however, feel free to drop Fr. John a note of congratulations.

We have the honor and the privilege to celebrate tomorrow the 66th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood of Fr. John and Fr. Art. Please offer a special prayer and well wishes to them on this amazing milestone. Praised be Jesus Christ!

Blessing for Mother's Day

Hard to believe that Mother's Day will be one week from Sunday. We have been trying to figure out a way to support Mom who is probably at her wits end at this point of the shelter-in-place and still respect the government restrictions. We have consulted with the Village of Glen Ellyn and we will be offering drive-up blessings on Mother's Day before and after the 9:30 am Mass along Hillside. The priests and deacons will take turns standing in the yard of the church along Hillside and offer blessings to those cars driving by... We will send more information next week in my letter next week. We will also offer a virtual prayer of blessing for Mothers at our weekend Masses, 5 pm Saturday and 930 am Sunday.

Message from Tanya and Mila - Christian Service

Thank you from the Christian Services Desk (aka Mila's desk) for your ongoing support of the Share Fund which is used to support parishioners and community organizations. During the last six weeks, we have seen lives turned upside down and your donations to the Share Fund are helping to ease some of the

burden families and individuals are facing. We have made two contributions so far to DuPage PADS to help house shelter guests in hotels due to shelters being closed, we are purchasing gift cards and supplementing supplies families are in need of for our Aid to St. Petronille Families project, and will be used as requests for assistance come through the office. We continue to try to find ways to reach out to our community and help as we can. Times are difficult and there are many families in need but we can “do small things with great love” as Mother Teresa reminds us. Thank you for continuing to support the Share Fund which in turn helps to support our community in need. Please remember to continue to reach out and help if you can, this is love in action. Thank you my friends.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040944a9ae2ba7f94-stpetronille>

<https://dupagepads.org/>

<https://www.glenellynfoodpantry.org/>

Call4Calm

The Illinois Department of Human Services’ Mental Health Division has launched a free-of-charge emotional support text line, Call4Calm, for Illinois residents experiencing stress and mental health issues related to COVID-19. Individuals who would like to speak with a mental health professional can text “TALK” to 5-5-2-0-2-0, or for Spanish, “HABLAR”. Call4Calm is free to use, and individuals will remain anonymous. Once a resident sends a text to the hotline, within 24 hours they will receive a call from a counselor employed by a local community mental health center to provide support. Individuals can also text 5-5-2-0-2-0, with key words such as “unemployment”, “food” or “shelter” and will receive information on how navigate and access supports and services.

Parish Bulletin

For more information, please log onto our webpage and download our weekly bulletin:

<https://www.stpetschurch.org/55>

May Almighty God bless and keep you and yours.

Prayers.

In Christ,

Fr. Milota

Good News Appendix

As you might imagine, I have been receiving many notes and emails from families in our parish and beyond about what is happening and how families are dealing with the shelter-in-place order. Although I am not able to respond to all of them, some are particularly uplifting and exemplify people persevering through difficulty and the presence of God’s abundant Grace. Here is an excerpt from one I recently received from a family in my previous parish:

“Dear Fr. Milota,

It is Holy Thursday, 2020 already and I sit here remembering Holy Thursday, 2019. The whole world is in turmoil on this Holy Thursday and needs the prayers of the collective universe. Last Holy Thursday my

small family, especially the smallest member of our family was in turmoil and you were an important contributor to her prayer circle and my spiritual strength. I want to thank you and encourage you as you are tasked with a bigger challenge this year.

Last year my three month old granddaughter, Maeve, needed heart surgery in January. She was born in October, 2018 and spent her early life in the hospital. Some of that time was spent on and off ventilators as she struggled to get oxygen. I requested a prayer blanket from the people of Visitation Parish and a lovely lady named Karen made that happen. I was spending most of my time back then back and forth to Luries but Karen told me of the beautiful request you put out the parish the week-end of her surgery. Maeve made it through the surgery and was sent home 3 weeks later. My daughter struggled with her day to day care. She was on oxygen support and a feeding tube because she could not yet breath or eat on her own. Miraculously, Maeve, her mom Dana, and her dad Dan have worked their way through their personal storm. I waged the storm with them as I tried to learn medical equipment I did not even know existed and offered Maeve's mom needed rest time when dad returned to work. Time moved on and Maeve was removed from oxygen support during the days in September and she is learning how to eat slowly. She is the happiest and most social baby you would ever want to meet.

Sometimes God's plan for people truly work in mysterious ways. I was able to make some services at Visitation last year. One included you explaining how you had taken time off to help your mother. I felt like you were speaking to me as my mother had just passed away in October, 3 days before Maeve was born. I like to think they passed each other along the way of their journeys. I leaned heavily on prayer to every saint and person I could think of to help me move forward through a very tough time. It seemed like every trip to Visitation, whether it was on Sunday, or a week-day mass lead me to a helpful prayer source. The culmination of that journey was Holy Thursday last year. Your service in the evening was truly a walk with Jesus. I have always felt close to God at church but during that particular service I felt that Jesus was there with me, letting me know he was helping me. I left feeling peaceful as I walked home. I felt safe. I felt that Jesus had let me know he was with me through the hardships, I was safe, and he needed to move on to help others. It was a beautiful experience..."

Here are photos of Maeve a year ago and now.



Some asked for a picture of what the priest sees from the altar when offering Mass. Here it is:

