



SAINT PATRICK PARISH

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Dear St. Patrick School Families,

This Season of Lent has brought us to the unexpected as the coronavirus has led us to suspend masses, public confessions, Stations of the Cross and other liturgical gatherings that are so much part of the Lenten Season. Normally these are highlights of Lent as they bring people closer to Christ and each other. As we journey through this Lent, it is evident that an unanticipated direction has occurred in each one of our lives regardless of age or background; therefore, it is important to keep our heads up and live with the restrictions placed on our lives due to the coronavirus. This brings us to one word that is often used throughout Lent which is sacrifice.

Anytime we are called to sacrifice it is essential to persevere in the face of uncertainties that await us. I imagine that you already miss some of the gatherings and enjoyments that are often taken for granted. This may include a meal at your favorite restaurant, visits with friends, sporting events, movies, theater, as well as time spent at jobs, places of education, and in church. It is also a time to be at our best, reach out to people who may have needs greater than our own, and refrain from the temptation to hoard items that are in demand. I have been quite impressed with the number of people who have reached out to me asking if there is anything that I need. Our goal is to maintain a positive outlook on life as well as to keep going in a way that renders calmness to our families and loved ones.

Last weekend the parish worked on getting mass into your homes as most Sunday liturgies were streamed through our website, which is my plan to do each weekend. The mass will take place on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. We hope to continue this process with upgrades to it when normalcy returns to our lives. These days invite us to be role models for others, which generates an impact on the way we think and behave. Words of encouragement should never be forgotten as it can inspire others to incorporate Christian values into their lives in areas where people tend to be seeking personal wants and desires. In that so much of the ordinary is no longer available, the opportunity to spend more time with family becomes a favorable opportunity to give your full attention to others.

Please know that the parish is here to respond to any of your needs that may occur; please contact us through email or phone. Prayer is also vital as it engenders personal strength aware that God embraces us during our sacrifices and rejoices with us in our happiness. Trust in God eliminates fear. The coronavirus was the beginning of a painful odyssey that none of could have predicted, and have been prepared to face. As people of St. Patrick Church, be assured that we are to pray for one another, aware that none of us escapes life without any struggles and to continue on this unanticipated route when others might give up. Be at peace and may you be blessed with God's love during these times of uncertainty.

In Christ's Love,

Fr. Bob

Saint Patrick Parish, nurtured by the Eucharist and the Word of God, is a welcoming community.