

My Dearest Parishioners,

Happy Easter! As we may know, we remain in the midst of the Octave of Easter, and so in the eyes of the Church, today is like a “mini-Easter Sunday.” I am writing with what has become my weekly update during this time in which we are all under a “stay-at-home” order from the Governor’s office and the public celebration of the Mass has been temporarily suspended. I have a couple of things of importance to share with you today. Please make sure to read to the very end as there is new information for this weekend.

First of all, as you may have already heard in the news, our Diocesan Administrator, Father James Bissonette has made the difficult decision to extend the suspension of the public celebration of the Mass until May 4, 2020. I know that this additional two weeks of having no public celebrations of Mass is difficult news to hear, but it is necessary to continue doing our part to help curb the spread of the coronavirus and to try to assist the needs of our brothers and sisters who may be particularly vulnerable to this illness, as well as to help in keeping our brothers and sisters in the medical field from being overwhelmed with patients. I wish to encourage you, my dear friends, to know that Jesus will provide each of us with every grace that we need to remain faithful to Him and steadfast in our faith, despite our inability to attend Mass and receive the Holy Eucharist right now. God always provides for His people, and until such time as we are able to gather before His holy altar for Mass again, be assured that God knows our needs- physical, emotional and spiritual- better than even we do, and He will provide!

And as your pastor, *I wish to thank you*. Your witness of continued devotion to your faith has been such an incredible inspiration to me! I have seen many people in both parishes stop by the Church to pray over the last several weeks. Many of you have commented on the daily podcasts and the live-stream of the Sunday Masses, which means that many people are making use of them- which is great! The generous financial gifts that have continued to be dropped off or mailed into our parishes is so very appreciated, helpful, and needed! I thank you for the different acts of kindnesses and support so many have shown to myself, Fr. Michael, and our parish staff in each parish since these coronavirus restrictions have begun. Thank you!

I also wish to assure all of you of my prayers during these difficult days in our local community and our nation. I know that many of you are being detrimentally affected by the economic effects that the coronavirus has had, especially those of you who are employed at Cliff’s in Silver Bay, which will be idling for several months, and those of you who own or work at businesses that have been determined to not meet the requirements to be considered “essential” and thus have had to close temporarily. I also recognize that many of us may be struggling with anxiety and uncertainty regarding our own health or the health of loved ones who may either be working in the medical field, or who are in what we have come to recognize as “vulnerable” populations. Please know that I am praying for all of you, and that *I would heartily welcome your specific prayer requests*. Do not hesitate to call me or email me with your own prayer intentions that you would like for me to pray for- I would be happy and honored to do so.

I am so much looking forward to the day when we will be able to gather in person together again for the celebration of the Mass and other parish functions. Please know that I have missed you

all dearly, especially over the time of the Holy Triduum, and I consider myself so blessed to be here, in these two parishes, as your pastor!

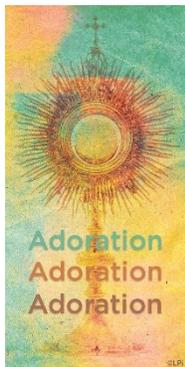
In Christ our Risen Lord,

Fr. Steve Laflamme



Sunday Mass on April 19, 2020 will once again be live-streamed beginning at 10:00am. You can go to your parish's website to find the link to the YouTube live-stream.

Also: This Sunday, April 19 is Divine Mercy Sunday! To celebrate this great occasion, Father Steve will be live streaming a brief sermon at 3:00pm on Sunday, followed by him leading us in the praying of the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Then, from 3:30-4:30pm, Fr. Michael and Fr. Steve will be available for the sacrament of reconciliation in each parish.



Next week, we will be **reinstating Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** in each parish. **At St. Mary's, Eucharistic Adoration will take place from 11:00am until 3:00pm on Wednesday, April 22nd.** At Holy Spirit, Eucharistic Adoration will take place from 8:00am until 12:00pm on Friday, April 24th. Please note that there will **not** be solemn Benediction at the end of adoration, but rather, adoration will end with a simple reposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Adoration will occur on the same day of the week and same time in the weeks to come, as long as the public gathering restrictions are in place. *If you come for Eucharistic Adoration, please observe social distancing requirements and remain at least six feet apart from one another.*

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available at the following times and places:

Holy Spirit: Saturdays from 3:30pm – 4:30pm in one of the classrooms in the education center.

St. Mary's: Saturdays from 6:30pm – 7:30pm in the crying room in the back of Church.

Both Holy Spirit and St. Mary's Churches are open for personal prayer. See your parish's website for times when your Church is open.



Music Selections: Hymns for Sunday's Mass are posted on the Holy Spirit website. Rosemary has also put together a list of meditative and other spiritual music to listen to. These are listed with links on the same website.