

3 May 2020

Dear St. Charles Parishioner:

This is the Fourth Sunday of Easter, also called Good Shepherd Sunday. The latest message from the Bishops of Ohio, received on Tuesday, informed us that the expectation to attend Mass is lifted for the first four Sundays of May; so things will continue "as is" for the next four weeks. The Bishops indicated that they are hopeful we can return to public Masses on Pentecost Sunday, May 31. More on that as we follow the gradual "return to business" directives we receive from the State of Ohio. Our church remains open every day from 7:00am to 7:00pm. We will continue to "livestream" Mass to you daily at 11:00am. Here is a special invitation for our schoolchildren to attend the Friday 11:00am Masses. During May, those Masses will be celebrated with kids in mind since Friday is "school Mass day" when classes are in session.

When we were school children, we were expected to learn new vocabulary words. That was usually a feature of spelling class. As we grew up and our circumstances and expectations changed, learning new words and concepts became part of life. In the last two months we have all learned some new vocabulary words to describe our current situation. We are to practice "self-isolation" by remaining at home as much as possible. "Social distancing" (staying at least six feet apart from people) is expected when it is necessary to interact with others. We hear that "these are unprecedented times" and that we should always show "an abundance of caution:" by wearing a face mask and washing our hands thoroughly for at least twenty seconds. Faithful practice of all the above will "flatten the curve" and lives will be saved. We must be vigilant and prevent "community spread" of the deadly virus. All these now frequently used words were rarely heard just six weeks ago. But for the common good, we not only learn the new words—we also do our best to live up to them.

If you are looking for a helpful Catholic spiritual resource, as we live out our new vocabulary words, we offer you the weekly "Cup of Joe for Your Soul." This is a "special brew" for those dealing with these challenging times. This spiritual "pick-me-up" is e-mailed to you every Monday morning. Interested? Then e-mail Brian Pelcin at bpelcin@stcharlesonline.org All e-mails are confidential.

As mentioned above, we continue to "livestream" Sunday and weekday Masses at 11:00am daily. One of the questions we frequently receive is "Where is the Mass coming from? We don't recognize the space! Is it somewhere in our church?" Although we first investigated transmitting from our church, our technical director, Fr Chris Cox, determined that internet receptivity was not strong enough in church for our needs. So, Father Chris set up a chapel in one of the rectory priest suite sitting rooms. Given my age, whenever I say Mass, I am particularly conscious of praying for "for those who have died, gone before us marked with the sign of faith." While saying my "first Mass" in that rectory studio/chapel a few weeks ago, it occurred to me that—during my time here—that room was once home to Father John Iammarino, who died here in 1986, to Father Steve Kaminski, who served here 1991-1996, and died at a young age in 2016, and to Father James Conry who spent his retirement years with us from 1997 until his death in 2008. When I attended Borromeo Seminary, each student room had a card on the door. The student assigned the room would sign his name and the year that he occupied that space. It was always an interesting history lesson looking back over the years to see who had preceded you in that corner of the world. I wish they had done the same with the priest rooms at St Charles.

The offertory total for Sunday, April 26, was \$26,517.87. Thank you for your continued generous support of St Charles Borromeo Parish!