



St. Louis Catholic Church, North Star
St. Nicholas Catholic Church, Osgood
P.O. Box 9, Osgood, OH 45351
419-582-2531
Website: nsoregion.org
E-mail: stlouis.stnicholasoffice@gmail.com
Pastor: Rev. David G. Howard, JCL



May 10, 2020

A Message from Fr. Howard

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

As of the time of this writing, I am sure that many of you have read the most recent letter of the Catholic Bishops of Ohio, which indicates the decision to extend the suspension of public Masses through Friday, May 29th. In this same letter, the Catholic Bishops of Ohio indicated that they hope to resume the public celebration of the Masses on the weekend of May 30th/31st, which marks the celebration of the Solemnity of Pentecost. What a great day to hopefully mark our return! Although the Catholic Bishops are hopeful regarding this plan, I fully expect that there will be some restrictions that accompany our return to the public celebration of the Mass. Admittedly, I do not know the nature or the specifics of such likely restrictions; however, I wanted to mention the likelihood that some limitations will be put in place, so that we can prepare ourselves and our beloved parishes for the possibility that we will not necessarily return to complete normalcy when we do resume our public celebrations. Of course, once we have more information, we will communicate it to you.

As I have written previously, I certainly would never underestimate the sadness of the faithful from participating in the rites of the Catholic Church, especially the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, and it pains me greatly. In fact, it is a pain like no other for a Pastor to be “cut off” from the faithful. I miss all of you dearly, and I continue to pray for you! At the same time, the regrettable circumstances in which we find ourselves may indeed help us to more greatly appreciate how blessed we have been, especially when it comes to our accustomed frequency and freedom to worship together at Mass, as well as help us to cultivate a greater love for the Most Holy Eucharist. I have mentioned to several folks that this is especially a time that we can spiritually enrich ourselves by means of the great treasury of Catholic devotions, prayers, practices, teachings, and spiritual writings of our beautiful Catholic tradition. Moreover, this is also an opportunity for us to unite ourselves, in a very special way, to our Catholic brothers and sisters throughout the world who oftentimes have to endure lengthy periods of time before they are even able to be participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass due to their local circumstances, and who serve as wonderful examples to all of us regarding perseverance in the Faith.

Although we find ourselves encapsulated in a cloud of spiritual sadness and pain for the time being, we must remember that God can and will bring something quite beautiful out of this for us. Indeed, this is only temporary, and we pray that, through the intercession of Saint Louis and of Saint Nicholas, that we will be reunited in our communal celebrations very soon!

Also, on this Mother’s Day weekend, let us also be sure to remember our mothers and to thank them for all that they do. In a special way, we pray:

Loving God, as a mother gives life and nourishment to her children, so you watch over your Church. Bless these women, that they may be strengthened as Christian mothers. Let the example of their faith shine forth. Grant that we, their sons and daughters, may honor them always with a spirit of profound respect. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

[Taken from the *Book of Blessings*, no. 1728]

In the meantime, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

Fr. Howard

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Spiritual Communion

(Since you are unable to receive Holy Communion during this time, you can make this Prayer of Spiritual Communion, a source of grace in the midst of difficulty.)

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.

**Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.**

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

**You can livestream Mass (closed door) from the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains
on the Internet daily by going to**

www.stpeterinchainscathedral.org scroll down to Live-streamed Mass Schedule.

(Mass is streamed live Monday-Saturday at 8 a.m. and Sunday at 11 a.m. or watch anytime.)

The Catholic Bishops of Ohio have extended the temporary suspension of all publicly celebrated Masses/liturgies through May 29. The Bishops of Ohio dispense the Catholic faithful who reside in their respective dioceses and all other Catholics currently in Ohio from the obligation of attending Sunday Mass during this period.

Day of Prayer for Humanity: The Church invites fellow believers and brothers and sisters in humanity to a day of prayer, fasting and works of charity to end this pandemic on **Thursday, May 14.** Peoples around the world are asked to respond to this call together; to beseech God, the Almighty to safeguard the entire world, to help overcome this pandemic, to restore security, stability, health, and prosperity, so that, once this pandemic-crisis is over, our world may become a better place for humanity and for human fraternity than ever before.

Baptism for Wyatt James Buening, son of Kyle and Brittany Buening, will be held at St. Louis Church next Saturday, May 16 at 1 p.m. Congratulations to the family!

The Sacraments of Initiation for our two Elect, Eileen Page and Cortney Norris, and our Candidate for Full Communion, Mark Rismiller, has been tentatively rescheduled to be celebrated at the Vigil Mass of Pentecost. Please remember to keep them in your prayers.

Eucharistic Adoration will not be held during May at our parishes.

Parish Council Meetings: Due to the COVID-19 Precautionary measures, the Parish Pastoral Council Meetings for May will be rescheduled.

Vacation Bible School for June this year is cancelled at both parishes.

Confessions: At this time Father Howard will be hearing confessions Thursday evenings at St. Louis Church beginning at 7 p.m. and on Saturday mornings at St. Nicholas Church from 9-9:30 p.m., or by appointment.

Planting your garden? Plant an extra row for St. Maria's Produce Stand the helps to feed those less fortunate at St. Vincent de Paul Hotel in Dayton.

Baptism & Beyond Class will be held Monday, June 22 at 7 p.m. in the St. Nicholas Church basement. All couples are to attend before baptism. Call 419-582-2531 to register.

Want to stream movies through your Internet service? FORMED has movies for your viewing pleasure that can also help you grow in your Catholic Faith. There are movies for kids and families. To register go to nsoregion.formed.org and sign up.

Contributions

Since all public Masses and liturgies have been temporarily suspended, the question has arisen regarding how a person might continue to offer their gift of financial participation and support to our parishes, so that they, like every other household, can continue to meet their expenses.

For those members who would like to continue to financially participate in their support, Parish envelopes may be dropped off at the Osgood State Bank, in their night deposit at any time, or mailed to:
The Pastoral Center, P.O. Box 9, Osgood, Ohio 45351.

Sunday Contributions April 26 - May 3

St. Louis Sundays: \$3,091.00

St. Nicholas Sundays: \$1,800.00

St. Nicholas Maintenance & Improvement: \$70.00

Thank you to those who are continuing their weekly contribution to our parishes!