

Dear Parishioners,

I want to bring to your attention a few things:

The *Little Blue Books* are back! These are devotional books intended to guide you through the Advent season. Please feel free to take one and take an extra to family and neighbors. These booklets are well worth reading and sharing.

The parish will continue to collect food for God's Helping Hands. Even if the main part of the store is closed, they are open for food distribution. Please give if you can.

The parish office remains officially closed because of the coronavirus. It is best to call the office or send an e-mail and we will get back to you.

The Church remains open, normally from 10:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m. every day for those who would like to pray. If you are passing by the Church, why not stop and make a visit. This might be a good time to pray for the parish or those suffering as a result of Covid-19.

I have set times for individual Confessions throughout the season of Advent aside from the normal Saturday Confession times. All other times are by appointment. Simply call the parish office and we will get back to you.

If you would like to receive the Sacrament of the Sick, likewise, you can call the parish office to schedule a time for this Sacrament.

Until further notice, Friday morning Mass will take place in the chapel. This is the only Mass that will take place there as long as the attendance remains low. The other daily Masses will continue to be held in the Church.

I know that many people are fearful of coming to Mass because of the virus. The bishop has extended the dispensation from Mass for those who feel unsafe. However, they should be consistent in their practices- like staying home and watching the Mass online or on television. If you are not getting out except for groceries and necessary appointments, this dispensation applies to you. If you are getting out for work, school or shopping then it doesn't make sense why you wouldn't want to come to Mass. We still have plenty of room at Mass. Yes, we do require the wearing of masks and maintaining social distancing. We also clean the Church after each Mass, which includes the main body of the Church, the vestibule, the restrooms and the door handles. We are committed to having a safe environment for worship.

I know that we are weary from this virus, I encourage everyone to continue what is asked of us to either prevent or stop this virus. We can do it and in the process learn more about who we are. Let us not lose hope, but perhaps we can support and commiserate with those around us. We can get through this together. Peace... Fr. Tom