



***Saint Augustin Parish Update
March 18, 2020***

To the greater Saint Augustin community:

We are going to try to keep you all in touch with your parish as we all weather this difficult period when we are not able to join one another through daily or weekend Masses. We plan to send out an informational message as often as is necessary given the circumstances of the day. In addition to that, our new Interim Pastor and our Deacons have volunteered to continue preparing spiritual reflections and at least one written homily each week. We want you to continue feeling like the parish continues to have life, and that it continues to bring life to you! **We ARE a community.**

So, today's informational items include:

- The communal penance scheduled for April 1st has been cancelled.
- Stations of the cross are cancelled until further notice.
- The church and parish hall doors will be locked at all times. If you need entrance to the building, please call ahead to the main number (515) 255-1175. The chapel will remain open.
- We will disinfect the chapel pews on a daily basis.
- For people and families that have urgent financial needs; we will do what we are able to do with funds in St. Vincent de Paul Society bank account. Each case will be reviewed in the context of what money we have and what the overall needs are. Please contact parish secretary [Cindy Sullivan](#) to discuss your needs.
- We are considering how to put together a small group of people who can make sure that seniors and shut-ins can get essentials, such as food and medicine. We are in need of an overall leader that can coordinate and connect the needy with those willing to volunteer as helpers who would bring the essentials to parishioners who have limited mobility. Please contact Business Manager [Randy Mudge](#) if you could assume a leadership position and help get this effort going.
- Please make sure that you make us aware of people that are seriously or gravely ill, so that we can attend to their needs spiritually and sacramentally.
- Our parish leadership will be meeting in the next few days to more specifically formalize our plans for delivering the faith and remaining a strong community throughout this period of limited access to the sacraments and to each other.
- ***Please continue to check the parish calendar, which is a click on the top right portion of our parish website's main page. THINGS CHANGE MUCH MORE FREQUENTLY!***
- We are already taking aggressive steps to reduce costs in all areas to weather this storm. Having said that, we would ask that you continue your tithing to support the parish and school staff in their continuing efforts to deliver our faith experience and the education of our children.
- The [PDF form for ACH tithing is attached](#) to be filled out and returned to the parish office, along with [a link to our parish website](#) that you can use to setup [ONLINE GIVING](#), located in the left margin under Current News.

TODAY'S (AND EVERY DAY'S) SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER:



“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”

MARCH 18TH, 2020 – DAILY REFLECTION; By Deacon Kurt Heinrich

Gospel

MT 5:17-19

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. Amen, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law, until all things have taken place. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do so will be called least in the Kingdom of heaven. But whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the Kingdom of heaven.”

Dear Friends,

As I reflect on today's gospel, the last sentence struck my heart:

But whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the Kingdom of heaven.

If I am called to obey and teach the commandments, I have to know them. That means I have spent time with them, so I can apply them to my daily life. Many of us may struggle to name the 10 commandments, and if we can name them, can we list them in order? For those that can list them in order, do we understand the great meaning and richness found in these words?

The Church offers us as a resource, the Catechism of the Catholic Church. There is a great depth and a rich challenge for us to live the commandments. For example:

First Commandment: *You shall worship the Lord your God in him only shall you serve.*

The Catechism reminds us that the ways we can serve our Lord include the following: adoration, prayer, sacrifice, promises and vows. “Prayer is an indispensable condition for being able to obey God's commandments.” While you may not be able to come to the physical church building to participate in adoration, we can create a prayer space in our home environment. A simple cloth, a Bible, a statue of Mary, and any other beautiful, holy or sacred items that you have in your home would be appropriate. During this time of self-isolation, we have been given a gift of time. We have time to read and study Scripture, we have time to pray with our families, and share with one another how we discover God present in our day-to-day living. We have time to offer our fears and anxieties to God and allow him to bring his comfort and his consolation. While this is a challenging time for us, we believe it is also a time for us to draw closer to him and building the Kingdom. Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and alms giving. Let us use this Lenten time as a time of favor from the Lord, so that our Easter joy may be truly unprecedented.