

April 15, 2020

Wednesday Update #5

Dear Fellow Parishioners:

Here is our fifth Wednesday update from the St. Helen office to keep our parish family informed during this pandemic. I suspect it was a very different Holy Week last week for all of us and yet, the truth and glory of Jesus's passion, death and resurrection was perhaps even more evident in our times of worship. Perhaps in watching services from home we focused or listened or absorbed in a good and different manner than if we were present. Several parishioners have shared how they watched multiple celebrations of each of the services, i.e. from Rome, Bishop Barron, St. Helen, EWTN.

Here is what we are doing at the office:

1. Our priests continue to remember the parish in the private masses being said each day. The Sunday mass for Divine Mercy Sunday, 4/19, will be televised Sunday morning. Detailed information is on the web site. Confessions are being heard by appointment.
2. Office remains closed but we do have staff here during normal office hours 9am-4pm. Please call us with any questions or needs.
3. Outreach Services continue to serve those in need at our two locations. Our pantry has only been open for food distribution on Wednesdays due to limited supplies. Information regarding the St. Helen drive thru food drive, to be on the grass parking lot from 9am-11am this Saturday, is on the web site. Should food supplies increase we may open for food an additional day. At present we are coordinating with other food distribution locations in town so that at least one location is open each day. Individuals and families in need of financial assistance are being helped at the United Against Poverty location or by phone. The need for the minimum necessities of rent and utilities is increasing as many people have either lost jobs or have had hours or their income significantly reduced. In addition to food, financial contributions can be made to St. Helen Outreach. We are very grateful to so many parishioners who have already supported this ministry.
4. We are continuing to look for ways to bring you up to date St. Helen services and information on the internet. Please provide us with your feedback. It helps our future planning. We do plan to continue with the broadcast of the Sunday mass. Please remember that our weekly bulletin does still appear on our web site and phone app.
5. Many of our staff continue to work from home. Our maintenance staff is spending more time on the property this week and next as there is limited or no contact with others and it does give them an opportunity to get ahead on necessary projects. The safety of all employees continues to be of most concern. As this is being written a hole is being cut in the wall of the sacristy. Thanks to the ingenuity, work and blessing from a few parishioners, we hope to have a video screen in place shortly.

The office phone is 772-567-5129. If you have a need, question, or concern, please call us. Many of us have heard and probably proclaimed over the last few days that **"Jesus is Risen."** If

someone were to ask us, Why? we might have multiple answers. Certainly, one reason is to lead us through the most difficult of time now and afterwards. What a blessing it is as well, to be reminded to proclaim on this Sunday, Divine Mercy Sunday that, **“Jesus, I trust in you.”**

Let us pray daily the Memorare Prayer for those who are suffering at this time and especially for those who have no one else to pray for them:

REMEMBER, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly to thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to thee do I come; before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

Your Brother in Christ,

Deacon dave