

April 22, 2020

Wednesday Update #6

Dear Fellow Parishioners:

Perhaps like everyone, the church staff is getting use to the new normal and evolving routines. We anxiously look forward to the restrictions lessening but also realize that some will necessarily remain and become the new normal. With the Grace of God, we are developing many new means of communication and new procedures that will better serve the parish in the future.

Here is our weekly update:

1. Daily masses continue to be celebrated by our priests and the mass intentions for the day recognized. We plan to provide that each week a Sunday mass will be available on social media from St. Helen. Confessions are being heard by appointment. Please keep our priests in your prayers as they still maintain a somewhat full schedule with responding to parishioners needs and visits to administer the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.
2. Though we are still restricting admittance to the Church office, the staff is here during regular office hours to handle needs at the door or by phone.
3. Outreach Services continue to serve those in need at our two locations. Last Saturday the Food Drive held in the Church parking lot was an overwhelming success. We were blessed by the efforts of our priests, the work of many volunteers and the charity of those in our parish, the neighboring parishes, and our community. The fruit of this generosity was a box truck full of food and over \$7,000 in donations, all done in two hours. Also, many thanks to the large number of people that dropped off food and donations before the drive and continue even now. Our food pantry is considering opening for additional times once it is safe for all the volunteers. Both of our Outreach locations are seeing a considerable demand for monetary help, i.e. rent assistance, utilities. Our Outreach staff is working with other agencies who are wanting to assist in these needs. There is a very good sense of collaboration happening as we all look to put resources to work where they are most needed.
4. The St. Helen Maintenance staff are back to working at regular hours. Their work does not entail them coming in contact with others, as they work to keep the property well maintained. Of note in this area is the following:
  - a. Improvements to the office at 2005 Tallahassee are almost complete. Our Religious Education staff will be relocating back on campus to this location in June.
  - b. The installation of a smart video screen in the Church is well under way. Many experts have developed a unique and efficient means of providing this state-of-the-art screen.
  - c. In compliance with the Fire Code a fireproof wall is being constructed toward the rear of the stage in the gym. This work should be completed soon. The contractor is then going to begin the work of updating all the bathroom facilities in the Parish Center.

5. The staff on site and those working from home are striving to keep programs, education, and information available. Many are conducting meetings from the comfort of their homes. Please let us know if there is a need or idea that you have so that we might better serve the parish and our community. The office phone is 772-567-5129.

It may be hard to accept when we are in the middle of it, but scripture tells us to: "... consider it a great joy when trials of many kinds come upon you." (James 1:2). This might lead us to consider: am I in some manner being strengthened through this process or when this does pass will I in some manner have grown closer to God, closer to the ones I love? Have I grown holier?

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