

April 29, 2020

Wednesday Update #7

Dear Fellow Parishioners:

As I write this the Governor of Florida is to speak in a few hours potentially loosening some of the restrictions in the state regarding the pandemic. Given the Governor's approval and direction from the Bishop's office, we are anxious to respond. It is to be expected that there will, of course, exist for some time many restrictions and new procedures. The St. Helen clergy and staff have discussed some of these issues and are continuing to try to anticipate new procedures. For example, we are removing for the time being the missalettes in the church pews so that they would not serve as a means of holding the virus if they were potentially used by many people. Of great significance is the safe participation of all who will return to the Church campus and the clear and well understood desire of our parishioners to return to active worship.

Here is our weekly update:

1. Daily masses continue to be celebrated by our priests and the mass intentions for the day recognized. A mass for the weekend is being recorded and shown on Sunday at 10:00am. Our priests are hearing confessions by appointment. The Sacraments of Anointing of the Sick, Baptism and Marriage and funeral services are available as needed with compliance to all current restrictions.
2. We are filming our annual May Crowning ceremony which will be available on Monday May 4th for viewing. We are also working on additional YouTube updates and presentations.
3. Outreach Services continue to serve those in need at our two locations and are very active. We plan to expand the time that our Outreach Office on 18th Street is open, pending adequate and safe staffing. We continue to be blessed to work with funds donated from other charities and those directly from St. Helen Parish to serve those who need financial assistance.
4. The following improvements are in the process of being completed:
 - a. Improvements to the office at 2005 Tallahassee where the Religious Education staff will be relocating in June.
 - b. The installation of a smart video screen in the Church.
 - c. Improvements to the stage area in the parish center.
5. As many parishioners are aware the St. Helen Centennial Book has been delivered. We plan to provide for a means of their distribution soon.
6. We have begun the process to update and cleanse our parish census records, thanks to a tireless volunteer. She has begun calling parishioners starting with those in the oldest age categories. Our intent is to make sure we have good information but also to see if there are any needs, thus we started with the older age groups. We plan to continue to all parishioners.
7. The staff at St. Helen are here for any assistance we can provide. Please continue to call regarding any needs, questions or concerns. The office phone is 772-567-5129.

No doubt we have all used some of the time over the last few weeks to read, study and practice our faith and likely the level of our prayers has increased. Perhaps we have become closer as a family. If we open ourselves to the Lord at this time, we will actually be strengthened. As we are absent from physical participation in the Mass especially, let us ask the Lord to use our desire for Him to strengthen our faith and our relationship with Him. As that happens, we, the Body of Christ, are enriched: "Iron is sharpened by iron: one person sharpens another." Proverbs 27:17

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