

May 6, 2020

Wednesday Update #8

Dear Fellow Parishioners:

Regretfully with this update is no message regarding reopening the church. With some improvement in conditions of the pandemic, as you are aware, the State has begun a phased approach for the reopening of certain businesses and activities. There has been much discussion in opening the churches in our Diocese for visitation and even perhaps daily mass. At this time, no decision has been made as there remains a strong prevailing concern for the safety of all. Please be aware that your Church staff at St. Helen, are working to prepare procedures and have the proper supplies available for when permission is given to reopen the Church.

Here is our weekly update:

1. Daily masses continue to be celebrated by our priests. We are pleased to have our newly assigned priest, Fr. Nick Zrallack in the daily rotation. A mass for the weekend is being recorded and shown on Sunday at 10:00am. Fr. Nick will be the celebrant for this Sunday's mass.
Our priests are hearing confessions by appointment. The Sacraments of Anointing of the Sick, Baptism and Marriage and funeral services are available as needed while complying with all current restrictions.
2. We continue to add presentations on Face Book, YouTube and our web site. Please check these on a regular basis.
3. Outreach Services continue to serve those in need at our two locations and are very active. Our Outreach Office on 18th Street is planning on returning to a fuller schedule next week. The need for assistance is significant.
4. On the property:
 - a. Religious Education will move back on our campus to the office at 2005 Tallahassee in mid-June. The Spanish Ministry will continue to be at this location.
 - b. The smart screen in the Church is in place and operative. Final touches are being completed.
 - c. Improvements to the stage area in the parish center will soon be completed.
5. The St. Helen Centennial Book is available to be picked up on this Saturday, 5/9 from 10am-noon in the Parish Center parking lot. At this time, we are only able to distribute the free books available to those who participated in having their picture included. We plan to make additional copies available for purchase in the near future.
6. 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. Though the office is not open to the public, we are here during normal hours to respond to your calls and needs.
7. For obvious and many serious reasons, the financial support to the Church, not unlike most areas, has been notably impacted. We are confident that God will provide but are also mindful of the day to day needs of the parish.

Your financial support to the Church can be dropped off at the church office during regular hours, mailed to the Church address or handled through our online giving program, Faith Direct. Be assured that added discernment is being placed on the use of any of the parish's financial resources. The parish Finance Committee will have its quarterly meeting electronically next Monday.

We have all heard many quotations about change and most of us with grey hair can certainly testify that change is inevitable. My impression is that the change we have undergone thus far as a result of the pandemic is only a small portion of the change that we are still to experience and endure. When we return to worship together or have large meetings or our kids return to school, we will most assuredly be doing so only with many new procedures for a considerable time if not indefinitely. Perhaps we can face the future not with concern about change but with trust and faith in what we know to be Truth, in knowing Jesus Christ is Lord and God loves us unconditionally. With that in mind we can voice what C.S. Lewis said with confidence:

“There are far better things ahead than any we leave behind.”

Let us pray daily the Memorare Prayer for ourselves, our families, 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