

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Patrick:

March 20th 2020

I do hope this column finds you and all your loved ones in **good health during these unprecedented times** in our Church and throughout the world. Even though we cannot physically gather around the Lord's Table together, please know **we, together, share a spiritual communion**. Each day, I am spending my **morning-prayer time remembering you and all of your intentions**. On Sundays, I am celebrating a private Mass remembering all of the intentions for that weekend's liturgies. I ask that you continue to pray for me, as your pastor, and all of our staff, as we continue to try and assure you that you are not alone during these stressful times. Remember, Jesus' own words of comfort to His followers: "I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS!" Together, bonded in hope, love and faith, with our Lord Jesus, we will find our way through this desert experience.

Many of you have expressed your concern regarding those who are deeply, **deeply affected by the Coronavirus**. Due to **the great generosity of a parishioner, TWO VERY SIZEABLE DONATIONS were just made to our local Lemont food pantries in the name of St. Patrick Parish**. Thank you for thinking of others less fortunate than yourselves even when you yourselves are struggling. What a witness you all continue to be!

Please remember that **we can be united together at weekend liturgy** by watching **Mass for Shut-Ins on WGN Channel 9 here in Chicago at 9:30am on Sunday mornings**. **Other parishes** such as Holy Name Cathedral, Old St. Patrick's Parish, and Our Lady of the Woods Parish, are all **streaming Masses** without a congregation, from their settings. At these liturgies, may we pray for those who are sick, those who have died from Covid-19, and those medical professionals fighting this pandemic on the frontlines.

The latest I have heard **officially from the Archdiocese regarding upcoming public celebrations** is the following: only the Cardinal will celebrate Holy Week Services from Holy Name Cathedral this year without a congregation present. **You can view the services online each day of this holiest of weeks**. **We are still awaiting the Cardinal's decision about celebrating Easter in our parishes**. Even though we might not be able to celebrate together, let us remember that the truth of Easter remains... **Christ lives and this gives us hope for the future!**

During these times of struggle for all of us I ask you to remember that **we do have our Church bills to pay**. I ask you to prayerfully consider **what and how you can share with your Parish Family this year**. You can mail your parish contributions to the Parish Office. You can visit our website and donate to us from your computer. You can also use our EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) System for which the form is posted on our website, www.StPatrickLemont.org. The Archdiocese has also set up a website where you can directly give to St. Patrick Parish: www.archchicago.org/offertory and make sure to select **St. Patrick – Lemont** from the dropdown menu on the form. All of these various ways of helping us to continue to pay our bills, are available to you. **In advance, I do thank you for your generosity and continuing to support St. Patrick Parish.**

Until we connect again through the airwaves, the Cloud, and any other creative way we come up with together, may God "hold you all dearly in the palm of His hand!" **St. Patrick... pray for us!**

In the spirit of Lenten hope, peace, and health, **Fr. Kurt Boras, Pastor** (630) 257-6134 ext. 6