

Cluster Updates from Fr. Phil

During this time of uncertainty, many of us are turning to our faith, to calm our fear, find hope, enjoy a sense of normalcy, and be assured of hope. To help meet the spiritual needs of our parishioners, St. Francis de Sales Church will be open so that people can come and pray. **St. Francis will be open on Thursdays & Fridays from Noon – 3pm.** I ask that you specifically pray for healing for the sick, help for all affected by the coronavirus, and for those seeking to bring relief from this pandemic. On Friday only, there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Individual Confession from 2 – 3. If you are going to confession you must go behind the screen. At three we will pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy & Prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe. You can enter the church through the east Oak street entrance only.

Office Hours: The **parish office will be open Thursday & Friday from 11 am until 3 pm.** Visitors to the parish office should ring the doorbell and someone will come and assist you. The office area will be for staff only. A safe and clean environment must be provided for our staff. The key pad has been disconnected.

Suspended

- Bishop Powers has suspended public Mass until further notice.
- All faith formation classes.
- Small groups – on and off site: Tuesday Bible Study, Friday Men's Group, Monday Secular Servite Group, AA, Calix Society, KC's
- Stations of the Cross
- St. Francis de Sales School indefinitely

Cancellations

- Community dinners
- KC's smelt fry

Scrip: If you need to purchase Scrip, order forms can be found in the back of church on a table. (The Church will be open on Thursday and Friday.) Fill it out. Do not attach a check or cash. Drop it in the box. Your order will be filled and you can pick it up at the office the next day. At that time you can pay for it.

On Sunday, the Lord's Day, I suggest you gather as a family to: watch a livestream of the Mass [Daily Mass](#), read the Sunday readings as a family (see below), check in on those around you (text, call, email), make a Spiritual Communion (prayer below).

A spiritual communion is an ancient practice of the Church for those who cannot be present at Mass due to illness, imprisoned, or in places where they are prevented from participating because of persecution, a shortage of priests or in our case the Mass being suspended due to the pandemic. There are people throughout the world who have to make a weekly – or a daily spiritual communion on a regular basis. By making an Act of Spiritual Communion, we express our faith in Christ's Real Presence in the Eucharist and ask him to unite himself with us.

As we fast from the Eucharist during this pandemic as an extraordinary measure to serve the common good, may God grant us a renewed realization of the awesomeness of the Eucharist and a renewed commitment to keep holy the Lord's Day. Fr. Phil

This will be a Lent we all will remember, I am sure.

Pray to St. Corona, patron saint of pandemics. Go on the internet and read about her: [St. Corona](#)

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

– written by St. Alphonsus de Liguori

Prayer you can prayer together as a family

Holy Virgin of Guadalupe, Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas. We fly to you today as your beloved children. We ask you to intercede for us with your Son, as you did at the wedding in Cana. Pray for us, loving Mother, and gain for our nation and world, and for all our families and loved ones, the protection of your holy angels, that we may be spared the worst of this illness. For those already afflicted, we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance. Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful, wipe away their tears and help them to trust. In this time of trial and testing, teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be patient and kind. Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts. We come to you with confidence, knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother, health of the sick and cause of our joy. Shelter us under the mantle of your protection, keep us in the embrace of your arms, help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus. Amen.

Sunday Readings

March 22

1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a

Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [1]

Eph 5:8-14

Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

March 29

Ez 37:12-14

Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 [7]

Rom 8:8-11

Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

April 5

Mt 21:1-11

Is 50:4-7

Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 [2a]

Phil 2:6-11

Mt 26:14-27:66 or 27:11-54