

*Fourth Sunday of Lent*

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*March 22, 2020*

*Readings: +1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a +Ephesians 5:8-14 +John 9:1-41*

**Dear Parishioner...Around & About Ste. Rose**

No doubt the coronavirus (COVID 19) has affected every part of our daily lives. The daily routines have come to a screeching halt; I dare say our lives will never quite be the same. The effect of COVID 19 has isolated each of us in ways that we could have never anticipated. The idea of “social distancing” is so foreign to us that making the transition to new models of social behavior are both awkward and unfamiliar. However, if we collectively adopt the guidelines from the CDC (Center of Disease Control) each of us will play a very important role in not spreading the virus.

As for our “parish life,” every activity has come to a screeching halt: School is closed, Religious Education is suspended, the Pastoral Center is closed, meetings are cancelled until further notice, and the celebration of The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass has been suspended until further notice. The few liturgical celebrations are the Liturgies of Christian Burial. Gratefully, no one has died from the coronavirus in our parish. Should a Liturgy of Christian Burial be needed, the attendees are limited to immediate family and very close friends. All funeral homes are enforcing the guidelines for social distancing that are strongly recommended by State and Federal Governmental agencies.

Many members of the parish are concerned about the Mass Intentions that were scheduled, in some cases, a year ago. Please know that all Mass Intentions will be re-scheduled as soon as public Masses are allowed. Because the Pastoral Center is closed, Mass Intentions will not be scheduled until the P.C. is re-opened.

As for myself, I am in the rectory answering the telephone as calls come in. I am available for end of life issues: to anoint members with the Sacrament of the Sick (Last Rites) if needed. The same is true with Pastoral Care for the dying in either a hospital or nursing home. The guidelines at all area hospitals and nursing home allow one clergy member to tend to those who may be experiencing “end of life issues.”

It has been encouraging that more members than normal are using the USPS to send in their contributions to the parish. Financially, the parish is in uncharted territory. All expenses will continue to be paid in a timely fashion, including the payment of

our salaried personnel. I am sure that many are experiencing their own financial challenges during this coronavirus outbreak. Please understand that your own financial well-being is of primary importance.

And finally, I encourage all of you to watch Mass on Sunday mornings on Channel 22 at 10:00 AM for “*The Chalice of Salvation.*” Daily Mass can be viewed on The EWTN and Catholic TV networks on our Spectrum cable provider. We can collectively pray for the safety of all during this time of pandemic. Pray especially for health care workers who are on the front line of combatting the coronavirus as well as for all first responders who also put their lives on the line every day attempting to assist all of us.

Finally, please stay safe. Follow all the guidelines/recommendations that have been given so that we can all live through this pandemic and, pray God, we respond to each other’s needs with generosity and compassion.

May God bless you! I miss you and long for the day to be reunited at “The Table of the Eucharist.”

*Fr. Bill*