

SAINT JOSEPH PARISH

Celebrating 175 Years!

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The Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 22, 2020

Mass Schedule

Bishop Foys has suspended the public celebration of the Mass and the other sacraments due to the coronavirus pandemic. Mass will be offered privately at the usual times:

Sunday Mass: 5 PM (Saturday), 8 AM, and 10 AM
Daily Mass: 8 AM Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday; 7 PM Wednesday
Holy Day of Obligation Mass: See bulletin

The church is open for private prayer from 9 AM to 9 PM every day.

The Blessed Sacrament is exposed for adoration from 9-10 AM every day and from 6-7 PM on Wednesday.

Confession Schedule

Confessions are available by request at this time.

Parish Office Hours

The parish office is closed, but Fr. Stenger can be reached at the rectory or by email and Natalie can be reached by email.

Sunday Collection

March 14 & 15	\$2,790.00
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Virtus: March bulletin was posted on March 1 and will be due on April 1.

Mass Intentions

21-Sat., 5 PM	Jan Schabell
22-Sun., 8 AM	People of the Parish
22-Sun., 10 AM	Richard Heck
23-Mon., 8 AM	David Sandfoss
24-Tues., 8 AM	Ralph Kremer
25-Wed., 7 PM	Myron Born
26-Thurs., 8 AM	Mike Anicka
27-Fri., 8 AM	Bob Herzog
28-Sat., 5 PM	Ervin Born
29-Sun., 8 AM	Joseph Heeb, Jr.
29-Sun., 10 AM	People of the Parish

To schedule a Mass intention for a person, living or deceased, or for some other particular intention, contact the parish office.

Administration and Staff

Pastor

Rev. Ryan L. Stenger, J.C.L.
Parish Office: (859) 635-2491
Tribunal Office: (859) 392-1500
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Mrs. Natalie Ryan, secretary and faith formation
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Mr. Alex Bramel, bookkeeper
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Parish News

We find ourselves in strange times, to say the least. I'm sure that none of us ever imagined that there would be a day when the public celebration of the Mass was suspended throughout our entire country—and yet that's precisely where we find ourselves today. I find it hard to describe just how painful this is for me. I know how much it must hurt all of you as well. The Eucharist is the heart of who we are as Catholics. Our lives don't make sense without it.

My consolation is that God has not abandoned us. He still lives in our midst in the Blessed Sacrament, dwelling in the tabernacle of our church. Christ still offers Himself to the Father for our sake upon the altar every day at Mass—at which all of you are able to be present spiritually, if not physically. Now, more than ever, we need to stay close to Christ in the Eucharist, so we can receive by His grace the union with Him that we usually receive sacramentally in Holy Communion.

Although things are difficult and different right now, I'm still trying to find all the ways I can to help you stay close to the Lord. We will be livestreaming the 10 AM Sunday Mass and weekday Mass on our parish's Facebook page. The church will be open for private prayer from 9 AM to 9 PM every day. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed from 9-10 AM every day and 6-7 PM every Wednesday. I'll include my Sunday homily in the bulletin that's emailed out every week and uploaded to our website. If there's anything else that I can do to help you in the days ahead, please call me and I'll do whatever I can.

I ask you all to support one another as much as possible during these difficult times. If you know fellow parishioners who aren't as technologically advanced as you are, see if you can help them to watch the Mass or bring them a bulletin. Look out for your neighbors who might be too elderly or infirm to get out and go to the store right now. Call and check in with a person who's isolated and alone. This is not a time for us to retreat into ourselves, but

rather a time for us to be the face of Christ to His people in need.

I also want to share a couple of practical notes for these extraordinary times. The parish office is closed until Monday, April 6, at the earliest. I can, of course, still be reached at the rectory or by email. Natalie is checking her email from home, so if you need to get in touch with her to schedule a Mass intention or something of that nature, that's the best way to do so. All parish meetings and events are canceled at this point; we'll try to reschedule what we can when we're able. Some people have asked about their Sunday offertory envelopes—they can be dropped in the donation box in the church by the choir loft stairs, dropped off at the rectory (there's a mail slot on the door in case I'm not home), or mailed to the parish. With the cancellation of the fish fry and the temporary closure of our Pre-K, we'll be depending on our weekly collection a lot more than usual this year.

Please know that I'm praying for all of you every day. If I can do anything to help right now, let me know. I hope I can see your faces and hear your voices at Mass again soon. Please keep me in your prayers and know that you're in mine.

Fr. Stenger

Church Cleaning

Team Two: March 16 – March 29

Team Three: March 30 – April 12

Pray for Those Who Protect Us

PFC Jared Allender, Staff Sgt. Dave Evans, E5 Staff Sgt. Nicholas Glossner, SRA Emily Wagner, Staff Sgt. Nicholas Wagner, I CL Petty Office T.J. Waters. Please pray for those who put themselves in harm's way each day to protect us, including armed service personnel, police, and firefighters.

Pray for the Sick and Homebound

Chris Arlinghaus, Janet Arlinghaus, Kim Brun, Doug and Ella Carmack, Kent Enzweiler, Stella Franzen, Billy Guthier, Blake Hegner, Nathan Hessman, Flo Kaffenberger, Garry Kaffenberger, Mary Kettenacker, Earl Koeninger, Bernie Kohls, Kelli Kramer, Ed Kremer, Jim Kremer, Jonathan Leick, Dick Mader, Donna Maschinot, Gary Maschinot, Steve Metzinger, Kairi Marie Mullins, Dominic Ramler, Ginger Rawe, Todd Ray, Chelsea Elam Rust, April Schack, Lizzie Schack, Casen Schrock, Jill Shaner, Greg Studer, Steve Tischner, Pauline Wade, Alisha Waters, Tony White, Margie Zink-Fritsch

Looking Back at 175 Years!

This year we celebrate St. Joseph's 175th anniversary! To commemorate our 175 years, this will be a weekly column from Chuck Taylor to "look back" at the rich history of our church community.

- 1874: Leonhais Schmidt & Elizabeth Schreiber married. Witnesses-Aloysius Futscher & Ludmilia Speier.
- 1875: Fredericus Kremer, son of Mathias Kremer & Maria Catherine Barbian, baptized. Godparents-Peter Kremer & Veronica Barbian.
- 1882: Maria Elizabeth Kohls, daughter of Henry & Caroline Kohls, baptized. Godparents—Peter & Maria Young
- 1914: Mary Enzweiler died from Tuberculosis at age 20.
- 1935: Paul Kohls died from a brain tumor at age 15
- 1943: Mary Elizabeth Kremer died from lung cancer at age 64

1927 First Communion Class

Edward Braun, Robert Pelle, Arthur Ritter, Joseph Sandfoss, Peter Siebert, Edward Weyer, Marcella Gunkel, Ursula Kort, Bertha Kremer, Mary Oldiges, Mary Sauerbeck, Victor Barbian, Carl Kohls, Helene Acermann, Edna Futscher, Rita Oldiges, Ann Schreiber, Julia Hartig, Rosemary Kramer, Alma Leick, Virginia Ritter

2020 DPAA

The 2020 DPAA has been postponed. Once it's rescheduled, we'll let you know.

Fish Fry News

Thanks to everyone for your hard work! In light of revised guidelines from the CDC further limiting the size of community events, we regret that we had to cancel our Fish Fry for the remainder of this Lent. Obviously, this is disappointing, but we're very grateful for the three great Fish Fry Fridays that we were able to have this Lent. Thank you all for your tremendous support of our Fish Fry and of our parish! Please continue to pray for the sick and their caregivers and for good health for all.

Bishop Brossart High School News

BBHS Senior Class Play

The play is postponed, and a new date will be announced soon.

2020 Athletic Hall of Fame

We have postponed this event until the Fall. Be looking for a new date soon.

Out of Parish Announcements

Steve Angrisano at Lenten Mission

St. Mary Parish in Alexandria is hosting a Lenten Parish Mission with Steve Angrisano. *This event has been postponed to November 22-23. Mark your calendars!*

Scouting Awards

The award ceremony has been cancelled. Certificates and patches will still be given out through the troop leaders.

Memorial Mass for the Loss of a Child

The Mass has been postponed and a later date will be chosen and announced soon. For more information, please contact ppicoola@covdio.org.

Fr. Stenger's Homily for the 4th Sunday of Lent

The Mass readings for every day are available on the website of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops:
<http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings>

Today, the Fourth Sunday of Lent, has long been known as Laetare Sunday, from a Latin word that means “rejoice” or “be glad.” That’s because of the entrance antiphon that we heard at the beginning of Mass: “Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning.” And maybe that’s a surprising message to hear in the middle of Lent, this time of fasting and penance, this time when the Church seems to be restraining her joy in order to call us to repentance and conversion.

And those words are even more challenging during this particular Lent, when we find ourselves in dark and uncertain times, when even the things that we believe to be most essential and reliable are taken away from us, when we’re not even able to gather as a parish to worship the Lord at Sunday Mass. We look around the world and see that people are frightened and confused and alone. How can the Church call us to rejoice on a day like today?

Well, the words of the entrance antiphon are taken from the sixty-sixth chapter of the Book of the Prophet Isaiah. Isaiah was no stranger to suffering. He lived at a time when Israel had been invaded and ravaged and oppressed by the Assyrians. It was a time of gloom and despair. And yet, having experienced a situation that seemed in the eyes of the world to be so utterly hopeless, Isaiah is able to say, “Rejoice, Jerusalem. . . . Be joyful, all who were in mourning.” Isaiah is a prophet, a man of faith, and that means he sees things differently, that even when the world sees nothing but pain and loss he’s able to see a reason to rejoice.

We hear in the Gospel today about a man who had never seen anything, a man blind from birth. And we’re told that the Lord encounters this man and takes the mud from the ground and smears it on the

man’s eyes and tells him to go wash in a pool, upon which the man returns to Christ able to see for the first time in his life. The Pharisees question the man and ridicule him—the eyes of the world can’t perceive what has taken place. But the man born blind now sees with the eyes of faith and is able to recognize Jesus as the Christ and worship Him.

Of course, we’re meant to see ourselves in the man born blind: to recognize the limitations of our vision, to admit that too often we live in darkness because of our acceptance of the world’s way of seeing. That’s really the heart of the Lenten program: to clear away all the obstacles of sin and compromise and self-interest that obstruct our vision, so that we can begin to see from God’s perspective, to see in the light of Truth. If we don’t do that, then the danger is that we become like the Pharisees: refusing to open our eyes to the light because we think that we already see, refusing our Savior because we don’t think we need to be healed. The man born blind was humble enough to admit his blindness and humble enough to turn to Jesus in faith, and so he is able to see the deepest reality: God’s love and mercy in the flesh, to which the Pharisees had been blinded by their complacency and self-assuredness.

The Lord opens the blind man’s eyes by spitting on the ground and making a sort of mud paste and rubbing it on the man’s eyes. It’s kind of a rough and unpleasant image; we might not instinctively think about the Lord “getting His hands dirty” like that. But isn’t this how He so often works out His plans in our lives? On the Cross, He reaches down into the muck and mire of our human sinfulness, taking all of our foul cruelty and hatred and envy and pride, and uses it to open our eyes to His divine love: all-embracing, self-emptying, long-suffering, and stronger than sin and death.

And I wonder if He might be doing the same thing in our lives right now through this current situation. If His grace was at work to bring new life out of the Cross, where there seemed to be nothing but defeat and despair, then surely His grace is at work here

and now as well. I think about the heartbreaking pain that we feel at the suspension of the public celebration of the sacraments and my hope is that that pain can be used by God to open our eyes to see what a beautiful gift He's given us, to help us never again take it for granted.

Over the last few days, I've seen many people stop by the church during the day to pray and I've heard about people praying the rosary as a family or reading the daily Mass readings at home. I've heard about people trying to take care of their neighbors who are suffering through all this, going out of their way to patronize local business that might be struggling, going to the store for people who are at a greater risk of illness, reaching out to people who are lonely and isolated, and so on. I see all that and I wonder if God might be using the grime of our fear and pain and uncertainty right now in order to open our eyes to see Him and the beauty of His love for us more clearly, to open our eyes to better see His image in the people around us and the ways that He's calling us to make His love present in their lives. My prayer is that, when this pandemic passes and life begins to return to normal, that we won't lose sight of what we've seen: that we'll continue to stop by the church to pray throughout the week and pray at home as families and reflect on the Word of God, that we'll continue to reach out to the people around us and offer them the love and mercy of God.

That's why we can rejoice today, even when things seem to be so dark and depressing in the eyes of the world: because we know that God is at work, that He lives with us and walks with us in the Blessed Sacrament, and that His grace can use all of this to bring us closer to Him, if we turn to Him now in humility and faith.

Spiritual Communion

Below are two traditional prayers that can be said when a person is unable to be present at Mass and receive Holy 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.

O holy angel at my side,
go to the church for me.
Kneel in my place at Holy Mass,
where I desire to be.
At Offertory in my stead,
take all I am and own,
and place it as a sacrifice
upon the altar throne.
At holy consecration's bell,
adore with seraph's love,
my Jesus, hidden in the Host,
come down from heaven above.
And when the priest Communion takes,
O bring my Lord to me,
that His sweet heart may rest on mine,
and I His temple be.
Then pray for those I dearly love,
and those who cause me grief.
Jesus' love may cleanse all hearts
and suffering souls relieve.
Pray that this sacrifice divine
may mankind's sins efface,
then bring me Jesus' blessing home,
the pledge of every grace. Amen.



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