

March 23, 2020

Regards for parishioners

I am writing this message on Sunday morning after celebrating my private Mass and also viewing the Mass for Shut-ins on WOWT television. I have been saying Mass privately since Wednesday, fulfilling requested Mass intentions as much as possible. I miss the congregation very much and have been more deliberate in praying for all of you the parishioners, since you are not able to be at Mass these days. I will continue to keep you in my prayers both at my daily Mass and in my other daily prayers. This experience reminds me somewhat of the time after my car accident six years ago. After the accident, I was not able to celebrate Mass for about two months. At that time also I missed being with the parish congregation. Despite my absence, I felt a great support by all of you as I recuperated. I feel that support again now as a number of people have reached out to me and I have called a number of people myself.

Reach out to others

One of suggestions from people at the archdiocese and in other parishes is that we reach out to others at this time. People may be sick and shut-in, they may down, depressed or fearful, or they may simply be lonely. With so many activities being cancelled, it is a good time to reach out to others by phone. Think especially of neighbors, relatives or fellow parishioners who might be living by themselves and spend some time reaching out to them.

Church open for prayer

I hope you read the bulletin we posted on the parish website a few days ago. I encourage you to come to church for individual prayer of the rosary, the stations of the cross, or an hour of adoration. We will be keeping the church open from 7:00 a.m. to noon and from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. daily.

Seminarians in residence

The seminaries have closed and the seminarians have been sent back to their local dioceses for the remainder of the school year. Consequently, I was asked to host two seminarians for the next couple of months. They are Will Targy and Jacob Connealy, both from St. Mary's Parish in Bellevue. I am pleased to have them with me, bringing comradeship at a time of separation and some isolation. Unfortunately, parishioners are unable to interact with these two fine young men. With these seminarians in the rectory, we might be needing some food from time to time.

Rosary on KVSS - March 25 at 6:00 p.m.

A couple of days ago, I receive notice of a special prayer coming up on **March 25**, the Feast of the Annunciation. **Catholic Radio Station KVSS (102.7 FM) will be airing a rosary at 6:00 p.m.** It will be led by Archbishop Lucas and Bishop Hanefeldt of Grand Island and the intention will be for the needs caused by the Coronavirus Pandemic. I invite all families to participate in this prayer of solidarity.

Finally, I would like to share with you a prayer I recently received. It calls on all of us to be aware of the bigger needs of those around us. You will find the Prayer for a Pandemic on the website.