

Dear Parish Members:

As we are seriously into our 3<sup>rd</sup> month of restrictions and consciousness about Coronavirus contagion, and as we struggle to 'accept what we cannot change' we are clearly humiliated as being human beings, the highest evolved and developed creature on earth! We were 'brought low' from our prestigious pedestal and cowered unceremoniously to avoid becoming ill or causing the illness in others. For the most part, we have been as successful as possible and should be grateful to all who gave positive directions and to those who followed them. Be safe and be careful as we anticipate a relaxation of restrictions, but be conservative and cautious as well. Maintain 'safe' distancing, use facial masks, wash your hands and sanitize a LOT. Recklessness and self-centeredness can backfire and create a 'surge' of contagion and cost lives of innocent neighbors, relatives and friends.

As we are about to return to open Mass celebrations and Sacramental practices, we will have to be protective. Distancing and mask wearing will be the 'norm' for the foreseeable future. Each parish will have to have a plan that will mark spacing, require masks, do redundant sanitizing and whatever else is common sense within the respectful practice of our services. Please politely comply for your safety and that of others as well.

1. Visit the church for private prayer and devotion. St. Lawrence remains open and available for your 'visit to the Blessed Sacrament, meditation, Stations of the Cross, spiritual practices individually and as family. Come to God's house and be at peace.

2. Read the daily Scripture liturgical readings in church or at home for personal prayer and meditation.

3. Pray as a family – parents with each other, parents and children together, for your family and friends that this time of stress can be a time of welcoming the Holy Spirit to bring you peace and comfort with each other. Family rosary is a repetitive and calming prayer of devotion to Mary as being the 'mother of faith and family.' Be brave enough to share your faith with each other that God will, indeed, respond with grace and support for you and your family in all things that are good.

4. Take turns leading meal prayer with family at the table together. Don't drag a sandwich to your room to watch television, computer and snack – meal time is family time... to nourish communication and family bonding. If you feel like you're drifting apart – you probably are.

When the Pandemic fear was starting, I took time to call every phone number on our parish registry to see how everyone was doing and if there was something the parish could do to help people, especially those who lived alone. I am about to begin that call list again but want to draw your attention to one problem I discovered... a LOT of phone numbers were 'disconnected' or 'not in service' and one even was answered by a total stranger in North Carolina who was startled to get a call from Albion! Perhaps replacing 'land lines' with cell phones accounts for this problem. Nevertheless, the following registered parish members have no working phone number on our registry! Please drop a note in the mail or contact the office between 9 and 2 M-Th and give us your information to update our record.

Aldridge, Larry & Julia  
Jones, Ed & Charlene  
Pietrowski, Michael (M/M)  
Duras, Andrew  
Schmidt, Jeff & Julie  
Winsor, Trace & Donna  
Pavolko, Nate

Chelune, Irene  
Kern, Michael & Catherine  
Rabell, Robert & Marcia  
McGraw, Charles & Elaine  
Thomas, Anna  
Wnek, Robert & Erin  
Pavolko, Nicole

Chiles, Ryan & Stacy  
LaCastro, Ed & Patricia  
Salisbury, Brent & Mary Beth  
Reibel, Alfred  
Worley, Dale & Wei  
Doan, Angeline  
Jantosik, Tony

In concert with the Ministerium of Christian ministers of North Western Pennsylvania, I am working with Cheryl Niedermeyer and the graduating seniors from our parish on a 'virtual baccalaureate Celebration.' This will be individual participation by graduating seniors which will be burned onto a disk collage for presentation to each graduating senior by the Ministerium in the near future.

I am pleased with the positive communication many of you have made with respect to our 'live streaming' Mass on Sunday morning. The crew, Susie Muetzel, Terry Bowersox, Larry Hudacky, Austin Kulyk, and Carl Pry are generous with their time and talent. Even with last minute changes and microphone issues, each week a lot of people connect for prayer and 'spiritual community.' This is a learning experience for us as a parish family. We need to make every effort to support each other with prayer, sharing talent and encouragement as a Community of Faith. We believe very strongly that Jesus calls us to be faithful and loyal to each other in every way possible. If we had better equipment and skills, these 'live-streaming' might be going more smoothly, however, I am very grateful for the spirit and commitment these very good people bring together every week. In every way, I believe God is pleased with them as well.

Certainly, our Offertory income is seriously affected by the separation we have to maintain. I am very grateful to those who have dropped off envelopes or mailed them to the parish. Financially, we are struggling to maintain obligations and to fulfill our diocesan share of CSA. Your faithful generosity will be the factor that sees us through this time of stress. Thank you for your special efforts to maintain our ministry and security.

If you are among those many who have lost employment or income and would appreciate some special assistance, please let me know so that resources can be channeled to help you and your family. I understand family and neighbors strive to help out for many in our community and that's what good people do. Yet, this Community of Faith is a loving resource for you to rely on at this time of stress as well. In addition, if you are experiencing any serious stress or personal upset and need to pray together, have a confidential counseling support or other assistance, I am happy to be available to you here at the church or in your living room for confidentiality. Please let me know how I can be helpful to you. As a Community of Faith, we want to be truly helpful to each other.

Thank you to all who expressed condolences on my loss of Gracie on Holy Thursday morning, and also to those who offered congratulations on my celebration of 50 years of priesthood. Believe me, 50 years looked to be a looooot longer from the other end than it does from this end 😊

May God give you every grace and blessing to be happy, constructive and hopeful during this trying time. May God bless you and your family with love and peace and may we be able to come together for prayer and community as soon as possible.

Fr. Jim