

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH

8880 Main Street
P.O. Box 317
McKean, PA 16426-0317

A Catholic presence in McKean since 1838

Phone (814) 476-7657
Fax (814) 476-0160

Monday, May 11, 2020

Parish Operations Update May 11-May 24, 2020

Dear Parishioners and Friends of Saint Francis Xavier,

I hope that you are still celebrating the Easter Season to the best of your abilities. I wanted to offer a **“Parish Operations Update”** in light of the “Yellow” Phase that we find our County in, as well as the guidance given from our Diocese late last week .

1. **PRAYER LIFE:** While Public Masses continue to be suspended, the Church remains open for Personal Prayer 24 Hours/day. PLEASE REMEMBER, THAT ACCESS TO THE CHURCH IS THROUGH THE MAIN ENTRANCE ONLY as the Gathering Space is Closed. We have been given permission to resume **ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT (daily), and CONFESSION SCHEDULE.**

Regarding Adoration: Please join us for Adoration daily beginning at 9am. You are always welcome to stop for a visit, but please think about committing to an hour of Prayer daily or a few times a week as we need committed adorers. The sign up sheets are at the front of the church (they are not online) by the Altar. The end time changes depending on the day, so please check our Website, Facebook, MyParishApp, and Twitter for the latest schedules.

Regarding Confession: We will resume our regular schedule of Confession on Saturday’s from 4pm-4:40pm. There will also be 1-2 additional opportunities offered weekly as well. Again, check our Facebook, Twitter, MyParishApp, Website for the latest schedule.

Regarding First Reconciliation, First Penance, and Confirmation: Those Sacraments are still delayed.

Regarding Baptisms, Funerals, and Weddings: Those Sacraments are taking place with the CDC/State/Local guidelines in place.

Regarding Home Visits: These visits (First Friday Visits, Sunday Communion Calls, etc.) are still suspended but **Anointing of the Sick** for Parishioners who are in the Hospital, Nursing Home, or Homebound till take place in emergency situations. If you know of someone who needs the Anointing or Confession (in emergency circumstances) please call the Office as you normally would day or night.

24 Hours for the Lord, At Home: Please join us every weekend for this endeavor. All you are asked to do is sign up for an hour (there is a sign-up sheet in the Church, or on our website) that you commit to pray in some way during that hour. It could be watching the Mass, Rosary, Scripture, Music, etc.. The hope is from every Saturday at 6pm – Sunday 6pm we are praying. The intention of this “24 hours” is for ourselves, our families, our parish, our world, an end to this pandemic, as well as your own prayers. Please consider joining us as an individual or family. There is more information on our website, facebook page, and bulletin.

Thursday Evening Adoration: We will be resuming Thursday Evening Adoration via Livestream on May 14 around 8pm and every Thursday thereafter. This Hour is filled with Music, and Prayer. Join Us.

Ascension Thursday: Typically, a Holy Day of Obligation, but not this year for obvious reasons, this Holy Day falls on May 21. We will livestream both 7:30am and 6pm Masses that day with Adoration in between and Confessions being celebrated from 7:15pm-8pm.

Pentecost Weekend: (May 30/31)

1. Please join in the Holy Spirit Novena (beginning Ascension Thursday) as these nine days between Ascension and Pentecost give meaning to the word “Novena”. This prayer can be

found in our Bulletin, Facebook Page, and Webpage. We will be praying it for ourselves, parish, world, and end to the Pandemic.

2. In addition to the "24 Hours for the Lord, at Home" we will offer 24 Hours of Eucharistic Adoration in the Church during the same time. While the sign up for the "at home" portion remains online, you will only be able to sign up for the "Adoration" in Church beginning on Ascension Thursday.

Special Mass Intentions: In addition to the published Mass Intentions for the following Masses, please join us in praying for the following intentions as you will be able to offer a name/prayer for most of these intentions via a Facebook Post on our Page:

1. Saturday, May 16: All Unemployed
2. Sunday, May 17: All College Graduates and
3. Saturday, May 23 and Monday, May 25: All Military Men/Women past, present and future
4. Sunday, May 31: All High School Graduates

Vigil Candles/BVM Altar: Please stop by the church to light a free Candle at our Marian Altar that is in place for the Month of May. Also, we have vigil lamps available in the back of the church available for a donation. If you would like one of those candles lit, please let us know as we can light one for you.

Prayer line/Livestream Prayers: In addition to our prayer line that can be used at any time (please check our Bulletin and Website for more information), please feel free to take advantage of the many opportunities on our Social Media and Website pages for Prayer as well. Again, please check them daily!

Easter Flowers: As the Easter Season winds down, we do need to find a home for the few real flowers we have. If you would like one delivered to you, please contact the Church Office.

Again, our Prayer Life is paramount for helping us. There will be many other opportunities offered so please check our Website, Facebook Page, Twitter, MyParishapp, and Bulletin DAILY for the latest information. Also, please see the "Spiritual Resources" on our Website and after the end of this Letter for more ways to grow Spiritually

2. **FAITH FORMATION:** As I said in the previous update, Faith Formation Classes were suspended for the rest of the year, but we are now working towards next year. Our new Director of Evangelization has been hired (you will hear more information later this month) and we are working on registration for the 2020-2021 Year. Please visit our Faith Formation portion of the Website to read the full update as well as download the forms that need to be sent back to the Church Office. **PLEASE REMEMBER, IF YOU WERE ALREADY REGISTERED THIS PAST SCHOOL YEAR (2019-2020), YOU DO NOT NEED TO RE-REGISTER.** We will be sending registration packets to all parishioners with children going to be four years of age by September 2020 to register.
3. **OFFICE HOURS:** Our Office remains open with reduced Office Hours. They are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 9am-Noon. (Closed Wednesdays).
4. **FOOD PANTRY:** We are thankful for the continued support that we all share in this mission of our Community. Please, before you donate, kindly check the **Bulletin, Website, Facebook, Twitter Pages for the UP-TO-DATE list of needed.** While we appreciate the support, please help us by only donating the specific items that are needed. Also, **if you know of anyone in need of food, please contact myself or the Church Office as this information is kept confidential and we can give the help that is needed.**
5. **ERRANDS:** Please Contact Michelle Curtze at 476-7438 if you need any groceries picked up, errands ran, or anything else that we can do for you. Again, she has her team ready to go, please let us help you!
6. **FINANCES:** Thank you for your continued support. We know this is not an easy time for any of us. Whatever you can give as a gift we will gladly accept. There are three ways you can donate:
 1. E.F.T. (Electronic Funds Transfer): Please see the information in our Bulletin and on our Website, how you can securely give online.
 2. MAIL: Please feel free to Mail your envelopes in.

3. CHURCH DROP OFF: There is a box located in the Church marked "Weekly Donations" that you can drop your gift in, or you can drop it by the office during our hours we are open.

Please note two changes of Second Collections, that we were notified by the diocese on Tuesday, May 12, that the "International Needs Collection" has been cancelled. **DO NOT SEND THAT ENVELOPE IN**. Also, the Peter's Pence Collection has been delayed to October 3-4 from June 27-28. Also, the Good Shepherd Collection remains open online for another week or two.

Again, any and all help is appreciated. We continue to cut costs while still maintaining the property and slowly and cautiously moving forward with essential projects. *You will soon receive at CSA reminder reminding us to also help our greater Church. There is also information at the end of this letter explain EFT as well.*

7. **FACILITY ACCESS/CLEANING/SECURITY:** Please remember that our facility/property remains restricted to keep us all safe. Even if you have a key, you are **NOT PERMITTED to use the Key at any time**, without permission. Further, other than the **Church and Offices**, the rest of the Property remains **CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC**. *You may be asking why there are so many restrictions?* This allows us to keep the Property Clean and Safe for ALL of us during this time; as we have taken every step possible to keep us clean, safe, secure, and most importantly **OPEN**.

Regarding Cleaning:

1. The Church is cleaned multiple times per week.
2. While in the Church or Office, you **must**:
 - a) Access the Church through the Main Entrance of the Church only. (The Gathering Space is Closed as Offices are accessed through that Entrance only).
 - b) Wear a face covering and social distance.
 - c) MUST SIGN IN/OUT. (This allows for contact tracing in the event of sickness.
 - d) Wipe down your area before you leave.
 - e) Please note that right now there is no access to a Public Restroom.

Regarding Security: In addition to what is mentioned above regarding Facility Restrictions, we do now have two cameras that help the Property to be secured.

8. **COMMUNICATION/CONTACT:** We hope that you have received a call from a fellow parishioner that has checked in on you on my behalf. While I am doing my absolute best to keep us connected Spiritually through our various media accounts; Michelle Curtze and her team are helping us to stay connected through outreach. **Please let her or myself know if you have not received a call**. Also, as another way of communication, we have begun emailing updates to you. **PLEASE LET THE OFFICE AND/OR MICHELLE KNOW WHAT YOUR EMAIL IS SO THAT WE HAVE IT IN THE DATABASE**. We do not give your personal information out to third party companies as it is only Michelle's Team and our Office who have access to this information. **Further, please stay up-to-date by regularly/daily checking our Website (www.stfrancisxaviermckean.org), Facebook Page (St. Francis Xavier, McKean, Pa), Twitter (@SFXMckean), and MyParishApp for the LATEST Information.** As you know, this has been an evolving situation.

I know this was a LONG update, but in the meantime, please feel free to contact me if you need anything, have questions or concerns, or other ideas of how we can continue to stay connected during this unprecedented time. Most importantly, know of my continued Prayers in this Easter Season and always! I ask for the same from you as I have begun a new way of teaching and preaching in this crazy time. I will have another update for you in 2-3 weeks.

In the Lord,
Father Jason R. Feigh, *Pastor*

SPIRITUAL RESOURCES:

Aside from the MANY and FREE items on the tables at the entrances of the Church, please feel free to visit the following electronic mediums (please “search” for them in your search bar of choice):

1. www.ewtn.com
2. www.usccb.org
3. www.formed.org
4. www.Myparishapp.com
5. “3 Minute Retreat” from Loyola Press
6. www.magnificat.com
7. www.franciscan.edu
8. www.eriescd.org
9. “Laudate” App
10. Use the Gospels of the Easter Season (found on usccb.org on the Sundays of Easter) to pray with!

This List will be updated regularly (as of 5/2020)

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER:

(To be said when you may not be able to attend Mass, or in our Case, when you are watching Mass, during Communion time, from www.ewtn.com)

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.

EFT INSTRUCTIONS:

We are very cognizant of the dire situation within our country currently. We know that we may not be meeting for some time and that some of you may even be out of work. Please know that you are all in our prayers currently and we are only a phone call away.

That being stated, we will be offering you the opportunity to still contribute to your parish through electronic funds transfer. Simply go to: stfrancisxaviermckean.weshareonline.org and click on the button, *donate* on either Weekly, Capital Improvement or Easter Flowers. You may choose Make a Recurring Donation or One Time Donation. Choose the amount, and how you would like to pay for it, fill in the information, include your contact information and put a checkmark in the *I agree* box and submit your contribution. Anything you can contribute at this time is greatly appreciated.