

Dear Friends in Christ:

In the present health crisis, we certainly cooperate with the international attempts to limit group gatherings and reduce the likelihood of spreading infection with the Coronavirus. It is difficult to comply with every mandate because we are 'so used to' being able to do whatever we like just because we've had the privilege of that unbridled freedom.

The threat of infection by the Coronavirus is unmistakably serious and precautions are wise to apply. Social distancing, serious cleansing, sanitizing are among common sense precautions. For our Church community, prayer is an essential ingredient to draw us closer together in faith, hope and love. I am offering 'private' daily Mass for the intentions scheduled as well as for St. Philip and St. Lawrence parish families. Please increase your prayer and deepen your confidence in God's grace and positive human relationships that will see us through these trying times.

1. Spiritual Opportunities:

A. On Sundays, we will "live-stream" one weekend Mass from St. Lawrence at 9:00 am. You can log on at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/StLawrenceLife/> and pray the Mass as a family at your home. Using your computer, I-Pad or Smart phone we can come together in prayer and worship Our Lord. Do not group at the Church.

St. Lawrence is open every day for personal visits to pray at your convenience from 7:30 am to 7:30 pm every day.

B. Wednesday evenings, I will be at St. Lawrence Parish at 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm in the confessional for those who wish to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The *Blessed Sacrament* will be in Exposition so you who are able to come and maintain 'social distancing' from each other can spend time before the Lord in adoration and personal prayer. The same 'confession' and adoration will be available at St. Philip Parish on Friday evenings between 6:00 and 7:30 as well. Private "Stations" or Rosary can be said during the time of adoration as well.

“Normal” *Saturday afternoon ‘confession’* time will include Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 4:00 to 5:00 pm. There will not be 5:00 Vigil Mass.

C. The Holy Week celebrations of *Holy Thursday (7:00 pm)*, *Good Friday (12:00 Noon)* and *Easter Vigil (8:30 pm)* will be “live-streamed” so you can spiritually participate in these outstanding services in faith and practice. Use the link under “A” above to connect at the appropriate times.

D. *Easter Sunday Mass* will be “live-streamed” at 9:00 am so you can celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord with your faith family from the safety of your home and family.

2. **Updates** on *parish* information will be posted at:

www.StLawrenceAlbion.org

Updates on *diocesan* information will be posted at: www.erieRCD.org.

3. **Offertory Contributions:** Donations in Offertory envelopes can be inserted in a legal sized envelope and mailed to St. Lawrence Parish at the letterhead address. Credit for donations will be recorded by the information on the inserted Offertory Envelope or CSA envelope as normally done.

4. Our limited Offertory income and currently suspended Bingo income seriously affect our financial security as a parish community. The splash effect on your family’s economic stability from the many adjustments imposed because of the Coronavirus creates a ‘ripple effect’ that will take a very long time to overcome. Everybody is experiencing a lot of negative things we were not prepared for. Know that I am very grateful for what so many people have been doing and continue to do for their families and Church. Maintain your good work, reach out to help neighbors and others who need it.

5. No one can do everything; just do your ‘fair share’ to help those you are able. Encourage others to pitch in and be helpful. Encourage students to read, to progress in their school ‘work’ and share their efforts within positive family discussions. Watch out, especially for the elderly and most vulnerable among us that they remain safe and appreciate that they are very important to you. Visit your parish church, pray for your family and friends, light a ‘memorial prayer candle,’ and bring peace to your own heart and others as we progress through this experience.

Be a person of faith, hope and love and minister to each other with generosity. May our Loving Lord, Jesus, fill your hearts and deepen your sense of gratitude for blessings otherwise taken for granted.

Fr. Jim

March 19, 2020