

Dear Parish Family,

Contrary to the good weather we enjoyed last week which helped to lift our spirits, today has been a mixed bag of sunshine and rain. Perhaps it is an apt metaphor for what you may be experiencing as well. My sister Laurie, who lives in Montana, says there is no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothing. Again, another great metaphor for us. When we are clothed in Christ, nothing can defeat us!

On that happy note, here are a few important updates for you:

1. Effective immediately, our physical office is closed for the duration to protect our beloved staff. Most will continue working from home. A select few, however, will be on site to help me maintain general operations of the parish but they are not available to interact with the public. Please email and call the office for all your pastoral needs and concerns. CoVID-19 cannot be transmitted through cyberspace!
2. Our new streaming camera has arrived! Michael and Terry will install it in the church on Tuesday. If you happen to be there for Eucharistic Adoration at the same time, please say an extra prayer it is up and streaming by the end of the day. Of course, adoring our Lord Jesus in His Real Presence on online is a poor substitute for doing it in person. And yet, it is better than not being able to do it all. So be on the lookout for an email from us when we are live streaming Eucharistic Adoration.
3. At Wednesday Noon, stop whatever you are doing and pray the ***Our Father***. Pope Francis has asked this of ***ALL*** the faithful, saying:

Dear brothers and sisters,

In these trying days, while humanity trembles due to the threat of the pandemic, I would like to propose to all Christians that together we lift our voices towards Heaven. I invite all the Heads of the Churches and the leaders of every Christian community, together with all Christian of the various confessions, to invoke the Almighty, the omnipotent God, to recite at the same time the prayer that Jesus, our Lord, taught us. I, therefore, invite everyone to do this several times a day, but all together, *to recite the Our Father this coming Wednesday, 25 March, at noon*, all together. On that day on which many Christians recall the annunciation to the Virgin Mary of the Incarnation of the Word, may the Lord listen to the united prayer of all of His disciples who are preparing themselves to celebrate the victory of the Risen Christ.

So set your alarms now for noon on Wednesday! You can read more about it at:

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/angelus/2020/documents/papa-francesco_angelus_20200322.html

4. Back by popular demand, every Saturday from 11am to noon during this crisis, I will be addressing your questions and concerns *live* on our Facebook page at [facebook.com/SaintMonicaMI/](https://www.facebook.com/SaintMonicaMI/). And for those of you who last Saturday either tuned out or suffered through the first 10 minutes of audio glitches, please accept my apology. We got it fixed. So please join me (or watch it later) and tell you friends, too.
5. If you stayed tuned to the very end of Mass this past Sunday, then you heard my appeal for your financial support. We normally receive between \$10,000 to \$12,000 in the Sunday Mass collection baskets. Without these monies, already we are having to dip into our reserves. So, will you ***PLEASE*** either mail us your donation at: St. Monica, 4301 88th Ave SE, MI, WA 98040. Or consider online giving

as, thankfully, many others have done at: www.stmonicami.org/online-giving. We can only keep the doors open and lights on with your generous help. Thank You!



[St Monica Church: Online Giving](http://www.stmonicami.org/online-giving)

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Well, this is enough information for now. Time to go and pray the 30-Day Prayer to St. Joseph for the 7 C's:

1. Containing the virus
2. Curbing its transmission
3. Caring for the sick with it
4. Comforting the dying from it
5. Consoling the living from the loss it's caused
6. Calming the fearful of it
7. And Converting all of humanity to Jesus through it!

And remember,

Pray, Hope, and Don't Worry!

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Fr. Freitag
Pastor