



The Brookville Parishes
St. Peter & St. Michael the Archangel

145 Saint Michael Blvd
Brookville, Indiana 47012-2414

March 24, 2020

Dear Parish Families,

With the governor issuing a Stay at Home Order until April 7 the COVID-19 pandemic continues to strengthen its grip on our country and the world. I have posted some prayer on our website that I invite you to start praying. Indeed, **I am asking all parishioners to observe Friday, March 27 as a day of prayer and fasting.** These two great Lenten disciplines can help all of us to renew our trust and hope in Jesus during these uncertain times.

Pope Francis has warned all Christians to avoid living in a 'fog' of sadness, sloth, and complaining at a time when many of us find ourselves confined to our homes. He says that sloth is a poison, a fog that surrounds the soul and does not let it live. He further states that it's also a drug, because if you taste it often, you like it. And you end up a sad-addict, a sloth-addict. The danger is that the devil uses sloth to annihilate our spiritual life as well as our life as people.

The coronavirus is impacting all of us and causing heavy hearts. Fr. Rick Eldred, the pastor in Bedford and Mitchell died unexpectedly on March 18. Due to the restrictions in place a funeral Mass could not be celebrated for him. Please pray for the repose of his soul as well as that of St. Michael parishioner, Regina Hoff, who was laid to rest at the parish cemetery on March 24. I have been saddened to learn that over 60 priests in Italy have died from the virus. Let's pray for them as well as all those who have died. Let's also pray for their families and loved ones who need to be lifted up by our prayers at this time of loss.

Palm Sunday Masses have been cancelled this year. The palms will be blessed and distributed at a later time. We are still awaiting word from Archbishop Thompson about whether or not we will have services for Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday.

During difficult times people look for answers to their anxiety. Word has been circulating about the use of exorcised water and salt as a remedy to ward off COVID-19, including the claim that it will protect you from getting the virus. Sacramentals are important in the life of the Church because they point to a greater reality. Namely, our faith in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. (Sacramentals include everything from statues, medals, and holy water). St. Catherine of Siena says that the devil hates holy water. It is powerful. But it must be linked to faith and not viewed as a magic potion. In that vein, I want to remind everyone that we must be people of faith who believe in the power of prayer and at the same time we must respect the science that God has put into place. Using exorcised holy water and choosing to ignore our religious and civic leaders shows a certain irresponsibility as it puts us and others at risk. Use the water if it helps you to remember your rebirth in the waters of Baptism, that you were sealed with the Holy Spirit, and that Jesus promised that He would be with you always to protect and safeguard you. Using it in the context of faith it will always be something powerful.

I hope you enjoy the pictures of the electrical work that is taking place at St. Michael. This week the light fixtures are being rewired and upgraded to LED. The work is progressing nicely and should be completed by the end of the month.

Thanks to everyone who has continued to financially support our two parishes. I recognize the economic impact that many people are experiencing and I appreciate the financial sacrifices you are making to help us meet our financial obligations. Let us continue to pray for one another.

Fr. Vince

Missionary Discipleship through Prayer, Study, Generosity, and Evangelization

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