



Dear St. Albert the Great parishioners,

I was speaking with Fr. Dan right after the noon Mass today. I commented to him that this has been an interesting experience - celebrating Mass in an empty church. While I know that every Mass I am praying for all people (those who are in church and those who are not), this experience has really made that hit home.

Please know that I am lifting you all up at Mass and in my personal prayer. By now you have heard that the Governor has issued a “**shelter in place**” law for the State of Ohio.

While we will continue to celebrate Mass every day, **we will abide to this new rule.**

I wanted to write a note to let you know how all of this affects you and St. Albert the Great Parish:

- 1. We will continue to live stream our daily Masses at noon M-F and Saturday at 8:30am. We will continue to live stream our Sunday Masses at 4:30pm (Saturday) and 8am and 9:30am Sunday.**
Please know that if you miss one of the live times, you can also watch any of these Masses on demand (after the fact). If this pandemic has shown us anything, it's that we need our savior and we need to pray.
- 2. While we have kept the doors of Church and the Perpetual Adoration Chapel open up to this point. We will be closing these doors until the “stay in place” order is suspended. Please continue to pray – but do so at home.**
- 3. We will perform baptisms during this time, only if it is pastorally necessary**
(i.e. danger or fear of death)
- 4. Should you experience the death of a family member, we can still celebrate a funeral.**
However, under the circumstances, we recommend that a graveside service be held now and a memorial Mass be held after the order is lifted. We are permitted to celebrate a funeral in church, however, it will be a service and only 10 attendees are permitted. That is the reason for our recommendation.
- 5. Up to this point, we have celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation by appointment.**
Under the circumstances, it does not seem prudent. Venial sins are forgiven at Mass (even if we are spiritually receiving communion and not physically receiving communion). Therefore, unless you are in the state of grave mortal sin or near death, it is not prudent to celebrate the sacrament at this time.
This is as much for your health as ours.
- 6. The parish office will be closed until the order is lifted, but please leave a message. Staff will be working from home and return calls between the hours of 10am and 2pm.**

These are trying times. In addition to the health concerns for our community, I am greatly concerned about the emotional and spiritual toll this could take on our people. Feelings of isolation and loneliness are inevitable especially for those who live alone.

If you need someone to talk to, **please feel free to call the office (937-293-1191). My ext is 203.**

**I may not answer right away;
however, I will check the phone regularly and get back with you as soon as I can.**

If you are not on Flocknote, please sign up. You can do so by texting ALBERT to 84576, or by signing up at StAlberttheGreatKett.flocknote.com.

I know that this is a financially difficult time for many of you. It is for St. Albert as well as we continue to pay our employees. If you are in a position to help financially, you can still mail your contributions to the parish office. **In order to sign up for on-line contributions, go to our website at StAlbertthegreat.net.**
Under the drop down menu “We Share” click on online giving.

Lent is about getting ready for Easter. Our Christian faith tells us that death gives way to life, isolation gives way to community and that these difficult times will yield to hope.

Blessings,

Fr Chris Worland