

Mar. 21-22, 2020

Thoughts from the pastor,

Last weekend we had the last of the public Masses for a while. So, for now we have many people's nightmare and some people's dream come true. You will need to limit your Mass attendance to watching it on TV. The Mass for Shut-Ins is aired every Sunday on WOWT at 10:30am and is available at: <https://archomaha.org/mass-for-shut-ins/>. Mass is also aired on EWTN several times daily, at 7 & 11am, and 6pm on weekdays. On Sundays it is at 7am, or if you have odd hours, watch the Pope's Mass at 1am on weekdays. You can see their whole schedule by simply looking up EWTN TV schedule.

I apologize for not getting the Bible Study notes on-line right away. I will keep putting them out for you because many of you now have more time to read scripture than before. I still have daily Mass but it can't be a public event or I would have to do it in the rectory. I actually switch the time for my Mass to keep the word from getting out as to when I have it. I know that many of you truly hunger for the Lord. This is a time when the concept of a Spiritual Communion is being talked about on KVSS and EWTN. St. Thomas Aquinas once defined a Spiritual Communion as "an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament [in Communion at Mass] and in lovingly embracing Him as if we had actually received Him." This is another thing you can look up on your computer. There are some wonderful prayers that have been written to focus the prayer as you yearn for the Lord on those sites. Here is one: **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**

One of my thoughts these last few days has to do with another subject that some of you have commented on in terms of my homilies, sports. Right now, there aren't any going on. So, even deadly viruses have a positive side. There is now time available when you and/or your kids were attending sporting events and practices. There are no new games on TV. The national past-time, that has almost become a religion unto itself, is shut off. This is one of the things that has concerned me for decades. For too many families, sports replaced religion. ESPN was the focus and not EWTN. Since I don't watch ESPN, I'm wondering what they are doing with all their air-time.

First Communion and Confirmation are obviously on hold. As things clear up, you will be getting news on when these things will be able to happen again. The Parish Mission is obviously canceled. I am working on a way to put the Bible Study up as a live-stream event. This is way beyond my technical skill, so I have help. Stay tuned.

God bless you,

Fr. Frank Baumert, pastor