



AMDG  
March 17, 2020  
Feast of St. Patrick

Dear Friends,

As a faith community rooted in Ignatian spirituality, we honor the value of spiritual discernment. Discernment invites each of us to take in the experiences and feelings from our daily lives and use our God-given gifts of intellect and reason to respond to the call of the Holy Spirit. Discernment is most appropriate in unfamiliar times such as these. In light of our national response to the coronavirus, we will be challenged to prayerfully consider the experiences around us: changes in daily life, the current events in our city and our world. We have the choice to respond with creativity, compassion, and hope. All of this in a context of prayerful discernment.

This past week, in and around St Xavier Church, and among the ministries of our Jesuit works in Cincinnati, we want to take several initiatives to connect with you, help you connect with one another, share resources, and join together in prayer. If you have further suggestions about how we might continue to live our mission, let us know at [office@stxchurch.org](mailto:office@stxchurch.org). We encourage "inward reflection and outward action."

At the recommendation of the Governor, health officials, and the bishops of Ohio, we have made substantial changes to our parish schedules, including the suspension of all public Masses. Please continue to check <https://www.stxchurch.org/covid19> for the latest updates.

I want to assure you that St Xavier community remains prayerful, even as we suspend all public liturgies. The Cincinnati Jesuit Community will livestream a daily Mass from their private community chapel Mon-Fri at 5 PM. We can also access Sunday Mass along with Bellarmine Chapel. Bellarmine will livestream a Sunday Mass every weekend. We do not have services broadcast on Saturdays. For now, confessions can be arranged by appointment: 513-721-4045.

There are many ways to be prayerful, even if you are away from the church building. Some of the Jesuits will post their homilies on line. These can be used for prayer on Sundays. You can access them at <http://www.stxchurch.org/homilies>. The most

recent post is from Fr. Fairbanks, regarding the next three Sundays of Lent. The Franciscans offer a video homily for every day of the week: see their site on the USCCB site: <http://www.usccb.org/bible/reflections/>

If you are in need of special assistance, please don't hesitate to call our office, whose hours are abbreviated: weekdays from 8 am to 1pm. Someone will return your call.

In the words of St. Ignatius Loyola, "Let us go forth eagerly, sure that whatever cross we have to bear will not be without Christ, and that His aid, more powerful than all the plots of our enemies, will always be with us."

The St Xavier staff will continue to serve the parish, working both in the office and remotely. We will be available if you have any needs. We continue to pray for the safety and well-being of people throughout the country and the world.

May our gracious God bless us with faith, wisdom, courage and hope.

In the Lord,



Rev. Patrick Fairbanks, S.J.  
Pastor



*An Act of Spiritual Communion*

*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*