

***Following is the letter that was mailed to all our parishioners today.***

March 18, 2020

My Dear Parishioners:

Following the lead of other Dioceses, the Diocese of Duluth has instituted new regulations to keep everyone safe. There will be no public **Masses** effective Friday, March 20, 2020 through April 20, 2020. Priests will continue to celebrate daily Mass privately for all intentions. St. Francis Church will continue to be open during the day from 7:00am to 5:00pm. We will be providing available times for **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** at both parishes. **Faith Formation** will be provided through distance learning; plans will be shared separately. Effective Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> **walk-in parish office hours** will be limited to 8:30am-12:30pm Monday through Friday. The after-hours phone message will remain the same and direct you what to do in case of a true health emergency.

As we make our way through this crisis of the Coronavirus (Covid19), we are being asked to make some heavy sacrifices to keep each other healthy, and not to overload our health care workers and system. Not being able to attend Mass in person will necessitate the fasting from Holy Communion. What a huge sacrifice being made for the greater good. Just as a Mother or Father at times must ask their children not to consume something for a greater good, (such as allergies to food items), to keep them safe, we are being asked to fast from the Lord's Precious Body and Blood for a time.

We are being asked to make a **Spiritual Communion** (provided below) with Him as often as possible during this time. We will be **livestreaming Sunday and Holy Week Liturgies** and posting them on our website. But when this crisis is over, we will be together again in Holy Mass. Just imagine the incredible joy you will have when you receive Jesus for the first time after this crisis. I think it will be more incredible than your First Holy Communion, because you now know how blessed it is to Commune with Him in the Eucharist. As an adult you understand what a privilege it is to receive His Body and Blood! What a day that will be!

We will continue to connect with you via daily podcasts, livestreaming Sunday Mass, our website, Facebook and email and written communications. Please continue to provide Annie your **updated contact information**, specifically emails as this is one of the most efficient written communication options we have. Our **bulletins** will continue to be published and available on our website. If you have no internet access available, please call the office and we will make arrangements to have the bulletin mailed to you.

**Confessions** will be offered only at St. Francis at their normal times. However, we will be making modifications to where the confessionals are located to protect the faithful and priests. Effective immediately and until further notice, all confessions will be located in the family room and the crying room. Confessions are only available behind the screen, and you must stand during the confession. The waiting line must stay beyond 6 feet of the next person, following the social distancing recommendations.

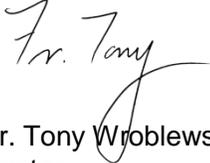
Understanding that your ability to be physically present at St. Francis and All Saints has been affected, and that the current crisis is causing financial challenges to many in our midst, we remain grateful for your continued financial generosity. To ensure the parish is able to meet our financial obligations and assist the most vulnerable in our community and live our on-going mission, we ask you to **continue your financial support**. We encourage you to enroll in the online giving options on our website under the Online Giving tab. If you need assistance, please contact [mpickar@blccnorth.org](mailto:mpickar@blccnorth.org), or call 218-822-4040. Contributions can also be mailed or dropped off at the parish office at 411 North 10<sup>th</sup> St., Brainerd, MN 56401-3027. Thank you for your understanding.

Many of us have a deep desire to help during this Pandemic. Most importantly, take care of yourself and family. Check on elderly and high risk neighbors, they may be in need of supplies and unable to leave their

home. Consider giving blood. Be thoughtful with your food purchases and use. Be a leader at work and in your community by following the social distance guidelines.

Watch for additional information on opportunities to help. "***A single sunbeam is enough to drive away many shadows.***" - St. Francis of Assisi

Yours in Christ and Mary Immaculate,



Fr. Tony Wroblewski  
Pastor

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### **Spiritual Communion**

The Eucharist is the "source and summit of our faith" (CCC1324). It is the sacrament that is the summation of our communion with God, and the Church. Since our public Masses are cancelled, we all have a longing to receive the Eucharist. In this circumstance, the Diocese encourages us to make an act of spiritual communion as a way to unite ourselves to Jesus when you cannot receive communion for serious reasons (illness, bad weather, public emergency, etc.). You can even make the act of spiritual communion as many times as your heart desires throughout the day. Prayer cards with the spiritual communion will be available at both Churches and online.

#### 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.