Dear Friends in Christ,

What a two weeks we all have had. Would any of us have thought that we would not have public Masses for a long stretch of time as we are experiencing? We have now had to examine new ways we draw closer to our Lord as we are prudently having to fast from the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and receiving our Lord in the Most Holy Eucharist in Holy Communion.

It has also forced me to change how I carry on as a priest of Jesus Christ. I am still offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass everyday but as a private Mass. I am now resurrecting Facebook for myself in life since I had given it up 10 years ago. For both parishes, please be sure to check out and "Like" the parish's Facebook page as I give updates there and audio of my homilies and fireside chats, and maybe some other items as I get more familiar with Facebook.

Here is the link for St. Patrick's Facebook page.
Here is the link for St. Bridget's Facebook page.

I am learning more about my iPhone and seeing how I may be able to stay connected with you all. Please recall the beauty of our Lord as you remain in home. Set yourself a good schedule of life for prayer and exercise, keeping yourself stronger in your relationship with our Lord and also healthy to combat the virus.

If you heard one of my homilies, the one on the Annunciation of our Lord, it would be absolutely grand if parishioners from both parishes would foster a communal prayer, the Angelus. Try to pray the Angelus everyday at noon, the most traditional time to pray this solemn 2-3 minute prayer. It recalls the Incarnation, Mother Mary's role in the Incarnation, and us increasing our faith in Mother Mary and our Lord Jesus Christ. Here is the text for the Angelus:
**The Angelus:**

*The Angel of the Lord declared to Mary:*

*And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.*

*Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.* *Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.*

*Behold the handmaid of the Lord: Be it done unto me according to Thy word.*

*Hail Mary, full of Grace...*

*And the Word was made Flesh: And dwelt among us.*

*Hail Mary, full of Grace...*

*Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ. 

Let us pray:

*Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts; that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ, Thy Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection, through the same Christ Our Lord.*

*Amen.*

Let us draw closer to our Immaculate Mother Mary and to the Sacred Heart of Jesus by reciting the Angelus prayer at noon everyday to combat the Corona Virus. Know of my prayers for you all and Godspeed.

_In Christo et Maria,_

Father Vogel

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To listen to Fr. Vogel's daily homilies and talk on your mobile device, download the Anchor podcast app from the Apple or Google Play store and search for "Fr. Vogel". To listen in your web browser go to this [link](#).

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**Visiting Church at this Time**

At this time, St. Bridget Church will be open throughout the week so parishioners can drop by and spend some time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. Specific sections of pews will be disinfected regularly. Visitors are asked to sit only in the pews that are marked "Reserved". They are reserved for you. Thank you for adhering to these guidelines for the safety of all.

**Scholarship Applications**

There are three scholarships available to St. Bridget students. The Nelson Gipson Scholarship is $500 given by the Altar Society. The Knights of Columbus Scholarship is $1,000. The Eugene F. and Lucille B. Tierney Scholarship is also $1,000. All scholarship applications are available on the home page of the parish web site, in the vestibule and in the parish office.

- The Nelson Gipson Scholarship application is due to the Altar Society at the parish office on **April 10, 2020.**
- The Tierney Scholarship application must be mailed in and postmarked by **April 1, 2020.**
- The Knights of Columbus Scholarship application must be completed and placed in a sealed envelope (do not write on the envelope) and placed in the drop-box located in St. Bridget’s church vestibule by **April 10, 2020 at 3:00pm.** This envelope can also be mailed to the parish office inside another envelope marked "Attn: K of C Scholarship".

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**Mass Intentions**

Fr. Vogel will offer private Mass as usual throughout for the intentions as previously scheduled. Please continue to contact the office if you would like to have a Mass offered for someone.

- **Sunday March 29**
  - For Parishioners of St. Patrick’s and St. Bridget

- **Tuesday March 31**
  - + Trisha Livingston
    by Denny and Maureen Liston

- **Wednesday April 1**
  - + Steve Scuka
    by Andy and Joyce Anderson

- **Thursday April 2**
  - + Patty Ruth
    by Gene and Kathleen Norquist

- **Friday April 3**
  - Andy Shrag (St. Patrick’s)

- **Sunday April 5 (Palm Sunday)**
  - For Parishioners of St. Bridget and St. Patrick’s
These are difficult days financially for everyone, including the parish. It is our hope that your family (and your business or employer) make it through not only financially but with good health.

The parish likewise is experiencing great shortages in giving, some of it likely do to your circumstances. For those who can give, we encourage you to sign up for electronic giving. It is easy and convenient. Click on the button above to begin the process. For those who prefer not to, we would greatly appreciate receiving your contribution by mail.

A pandemic has put us in this situation. We pray that we all make it through.

If you haven't taken advantage of the incredible resource, FORMED, now is the perfect time to do so. It is a web site that has a plethora of Catholic content including movies, documentaries, books, audio books, lives of the saints, bible studies, faith formation programs and much more. There are many resources for families and children, which is perfect at this time when most are in the home together needing things to do. And kudos to FORMED. They are providing their content FREE to all dioceses right now. This is an incredible response to the needs of the Church, and all people of good will, at this moment in time.

If you have not yet signed up, it is easy and at no cost to you.

1. Go to FORMED. (An app is available as well.)
2. Click on "sign up".
3. Click on "I belong to a Parish or Organization".
4. Type in the blank field "St Bridget".
5. Confirm it is the correct St Bridget by making sure the address that pops up is "2103 N Lexington Rd Pleasant Hill, MO" and then click it.
6. Click the blue button that says "Sign Up".

You are greatly encouraged to check this out. You and your family will benefit enormously.

There are an endless number of web sites that will keep you connected to your faith as well as offer things to do for your children. The bishops of the United States have developed a web site with a wealth of resources. Please check out this treasure. #CatholicsAtHome

**Reflection: The Blessed Host**

It is impossible for us to love and adore Christ deeply enough as He is present in the Most Holy Eucharist. When we are before Him, present in the Most Holy Eucharist, we should see the Almighty God present in veiled form. He is: Mercy, Eternal Life, The Eternal God, The Savior of Sinners, The Living Water, The Fire of Pure Love, The Medicine for All Our Ills, All Sentiments of Love, The Hope of All, The Lifter of Burdens…and He is worthy of all our trust (See Diary #356).

What do you see when you gaze upon the Sacred Host? With your eyes you see bread, but with your soul you should see God. You should see God in all His glory and power and you should adore Him with all your might. Think about how you relate to our Lord as He is present in the Holy Eucharist. Pray that God will flood your mind with a true knowledge of Him and inspire your heart with a burning love.

**Lord, help me to know and love You as You are present in the Most Holy Eucharist. Help me to understand the gift of Your Mercy made present through this Holy Gift. May I learn to adore You every time I am before Your presence in this Sacred Host. Jesus, I trust in You.** (This free reflection can be found here.)