

I Miss You

How bittersweet when children hold signs in a car telling their grandparents how much they long to be with them. Fr. Devlin, Deacon Dan, and I want to hold up a sign expressing our fondness for you and the empty ache of not celebrating Mass with you present. Come back soon!

It may take a while before the safety level allows everyone to attend Mass together as a family. We will continue with the livestreaming of Sunday Mass as long as parishioners' attendance is prevented by the coronavirus. Isolation is taxing on the human spirit. We are made for THE OTHER, for God, family, and friends. Depression, anxiety, and apathy are common reactions to prolonged isolation. This is just as unhealthy as the dangers of the COVID-19. Make a special time each day for personal prayer. Please reach out to your neighbor or friend who may be alone and contact them. Make a meal, drop off a present, or ask them to come to the window and wave. Let us know if you or a neighbor need assistance with meals, transportation, or conversation.

We will be celebrating a **Chaplet Novena of the Divine Mercy** beginning April 19, Divine Mercy Sunday. This nine-day chaplet will be prayed for the intention of the World Wide Relief of the Coronavirus Pandemic. The prayers, which are similar to the rosary, will be said together, LIVESTREAMING via our parish Facebook page at 3:00 PM each day for nine days. The parish website will have the prayers to say at home posted for you to print or read along with us.

The financial impact of this pandemic is widespread and pervasive. We have attempted to reduce costs wherever practical. Cost saving measures have been initiated concerning utilities, materials, cleaning services and personnel. You will notice that in the mailing of the May weekly offering envelopes a return envelope has been included for your convenience. Many parishioners have begun to use *WeShare*, the on-line giving service available through our parish website. The Easter Collection is a significant part of our yearly budget. Please take the time to mail your Easter contribution or use *WeShare* to make an on-line offering. I use *WeShare* myself and have not had any problems. You will have the option to make a contribution through your bank account or a credit card. The parish does not receive this personal information. We only see your contribution amount and date. Your support allows us to continue our mission, and we humbly thank you!

Everyone is being asked to make sacrifices during this societal affliction for the common good. Our faith teaches us that victory over sin and death was not through a military, economic, or personal success but rather the emptying of Christ in the appearance of worldly failure while the true reality of perfect faith, obedience, and love succeeded. Our sacrifices for THE OTHER matter, for God, our family, and neighbor. May the Lord be praised and adored in our acts of love and sacrifices of faith.

May the Divine Mercy of Christ fill your hearts.

Fr. Robert McDermott