

April 1, 2020

Dear Parishioners of St. Joseph and Christ the King,

I pray that you are well and that this Lent, unlike any other we have ever lived, is bringing you closer to our Good Lord. The cancellation of public Masses and parish activities until May 15 and the recent presidential recommendation to stay at home until April 30 is a challenge for all of us. We shall pray for the grace to live one day at a time, as God so grants.

I continue to pray for all of you at the celebration of daily Mass, and also pray for all of you before the Blessed Sacrament. Mass intentions are being rescheduled as the current scheduling allows. The bulletins of each parish will list the current daily Mass and intention. I realize that going without the Eucharist is a very painful reality, and I hope that the Lord will draw us all close to His Sacred Heart, even if we are unable to receive Him sacramentally.



Let us pray for healing of the sick and for the safety of all medical personnel; and for those whom this virus has taken their lives, for the repose of their souls, and consolation and strength for family, loved ones and friends of the deceased.

All are welcome to come and pray in the church daily from 9 AM until 5 PM. Additionally, I am still available for the Sacrament of Penance, Anointing of the Sick, and Viaticum. Please contact me by phone at 507-451-4845 or through e-mail at pastor@stjosephowatonna.org to arrange for any sacramental or pastoral needs.

Some have asked about their envelope giving and if they can drop off the envelopes despite the office being closed. The locked box near the parish office west entrance may be used. Your continued support of our parish is a great sign of stewardship. You may send your envelopes to the parish office at 512 S. Elm Ave., Owatonna, MN 55060, or make arrangements for online giving. Please continue to support the parish as you are able.

I realize that some are also experiencing economic hardship because of the restrictions placed upon all of us. We are here to assist all parishioners as the grace of providence allows, so please do not hesitate to contact me. There are numerous agencies that we are also in contact with for assistance.

Lastly, I encourage you to stay strong in faith and utilize the many spiritual resources on the diocesan / parish website, to help you keep holy the Sabbath and stay united with the Church in prayer. In addition to the various options for viewing Mass online or on TV, this year Bishop Quinn's private celebrations of the Holy Week Liturgies will be live-streamed, to enable the faithful across the diocese to watch and spiritually join him for these solemn celebrations of our faith. Details can be found at <https://dowr.org>. The St. Joseph website <https://stjosephowatonna.org> will have links to St. Joseph Parish Sunday Mass videos and live-stream during the Sacred Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil).

Please be assured of my prayers for you during these difficult and uncertain times. May Our Blessed Mother, Help of the Sick, intercede for us and comfort us.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. James E. Starasinich
Pastor