



ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

Dear Parishioners,

I'm sure all of you have been carefully monitoring the impact and spread of the COVID-19 virus. I want to assure you that I, along with the parish Deacons are available to you for your spiritual and pastoral needs. We are all praying for you in this most difficult time.

All public weekday Masses, Lenten devotions and all parish events are cancelled until further notice. As we hear each and every day, social distancing is the best method to control further spread of the virus.

I encourage everyone to intensify in their efforts at prayer, fasting and almsgiving at this time. Pray for deliverance and protection against the coronavirus, and an end to this epidemic. Let us ask the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Health of the Sick, to intercede for us at this time.

Some things to help you pray each day

-Once again, intensify in your efforts at prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

- Cable t.v. and internet sites provide an opportunity for weekday and Sunday Mass. Suggested sites include - EWTN.com, and www.wordonfire.org/daily.mass. So join yourself to the celebration of the Eucharist through Spiritual Communion each day.

- Pray the rosary and other devotional prayers. See Novena prayers on parish website for the Feast of the Annunciation. Each day and evening kneel before the Blessed Sacrament in our parish chapels. Please wash your hands thoroughly before entering chapel.

- Each Friday and Sunday morning, Assumption church will be open from 8:00A.M. – 11:00A.M. for quiet prayer and meditation. Enter through the North East Door off the parking lot and please stop and wash your hands before entering church. Stations of the Cross booklets will be available.

- Confessions will be heard Sunday mornings at 10:00a.m. until all are heard. If there are a number of people at that time remember to distance yourself from others by 6 feet. Again, enter through the North East Door off the parking lot and please stop and wash your hands before entering church.

To keep yourself informed and updated concerning your parish community, visit either www.stmaryassumptionparish.org or www.icparishbraidwood.org regularly and read the Sunday bulletin posted for your convenience.

Yet again, remember to pray especially for those who are sickened with this terrible virus...especially the elderly and those most susceptible. Pray for health experts and medical personnel who work each day in service of the sick. Pray for deliverance and protection against the coronavirus, and an end to this epidemic. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us! Sincerely in Christ, **Father Noesen**



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PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Do you feel too busy to make time for our Lord? An Act of Spiritual Communion can help! No matter what your day is like, Jesus can help make it better, or at least more bearable, if you ask him for His help and guidance in prayers such as this one, composed by St. Alphonsus Liguori in the 18th century:

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now 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.

Other prayers ~

Oh Jesus, I turn toward the holy tabernacle where You live hidden for love of me. I love you, O my God. I cannot receive you in Holy Communion. Come, nevertheless, and visit me with Your grace. Come spiritually into my heart. Purify it. Sanctify it. Render it like unto Your own. Amen.

Lord, I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

For those times you can't make Mass, or can't take Communion because of an unconfessed mortal sin (for which you can ask for and receive God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance), you can still reach out to Him by making a Spiritual Communion in prayer!

St. Thomas Aquinas once defined a Spiritual Communion as "an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament [in Communion at Mass] and in lovingly embracing Him as if we had actually received Him."

You can make a Spiritual Communion before our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, or anywhere else where the Holy Spirit moves you.

Remember, however, that you can "turn toward the holy tabernacle" and receive Jesus in your heart from anywhere you might happen to be, at any time, day or night!

You just need to approach Him with sincerity, humility and a desire to follow in His footsteps in acts of faith and charity. And He's delighted when we do so! The Baltimore Catechism notes that a Spiritual Communion "is an act of devotion, and one very pleasing to God."

St. John Vianney, a French priest famous for converting countless souls to Christ in his parish of Ars in the 19th century, once said "when we feel the love of God growing cold, let us instantly make a Spiritual Communion. When we cannot go to the church, let us turn towards the tabernacle; no wall can shut us out from the good God." We can indeed be grateful for that!