

Church of the Holy Cross

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April 19, 2020

Very Rev. Michael Manning, STL
Rev. John McGowan, CSsR,
Weekend Assistant
Tom Dooley, Business Administrator
Mrs. Lori LaPlante, Pastoral Associate
Mrs. Sallie Kabash,
Coordinator of Religious Education
Jill Ramme, Music Director
Ms. Susan Symington, Sacristan



Second Sunday of Easter Divine Mercy Sunday

May Almighty God
have mercy on us,
Forgive us our sins
and lead us to
everlasting life.

In compliance with Bishop
O'Connell's order, Holy Cross
Church is closed until further
notice.

Live Streaming
Mass 9:00 AM weekdays

Eucharistic Adoration
9:30-10:30 AM weekdays

Saturday
5 PM Mass

Sunday
10:30 AM Mass

Caravaggio's painting called the Incredulity of Thomas demonstrates an almost clinical curiosity about the wound in Jesus' side. We can see Thomas' disbelief yielding to astonishment before he professes his famous act of faith, "My Lord and My God."

It's a wonderful painting of a wonderful gospel passage, giving encouragement to each of us in those moments we doubt our faith or fear it's misplaced. Jesus can gently guide us to know him better and to more fully understand the meaning of the resurrection in our life.

Today has been designated Divine Mercy Sunday since 2000, a solemnity which encour-

ages us to profess our sinfulness and receive God's abundant mercy. Donald Haggerty has a wonderful chapter on Divine Mercy in his book *Conversion*. He cautions us not to confuse mercy with a divine pity for the sinner who persists in sin, covering himself in a warm blanket of God's compassion and disregarding his need for repentance and conversion. Some misguided believers will think that God's mercy means acceptance without a need for change. Far from it, our acceptance of God's mercy brings even more acute awareness of our sinfulness and gratitude to our all merciful God.

Mass Intentions

April 18	Sat.	Frank Careri by Theresa Careri Jack Morris by Family
April 19	Sun.	Constance Sullivan by Mr. & Mrs. James Moody Isabel Mulheren by Family Kathleen Bergman by Michele McGlyn
April 20	Mon.	James Dooley by Family
April 21	Tues.	Harold E. Boyle by HCA PTA
April 22	Wed.	John Glauda by The Grillo Family
April 24	Fri.	Frank Careri by Theresa Careri
April 25	Sat.	Clare Morris by Family
April 25	Sat.	John V. Ellis by Mary Ellis
April 26	Sun.	Vincent Marron by Mr. & Mrs. Michael Winchell Arline Palmieri by Family

The Redemptorists are helping say some of our masses privately. Mass intentions are not being announced on the streaming masses for privacy.

The Sacrament of Confirmation at Holy Cross

Bishop O'Connell has directed that Spring 2020 Confirmation planning may resume with the following understandings:

- Confirmations can be re-scheduled when the churches are "reopened."
- All social distancing and crowd limits in effect at the time of Confirmation must be observed.
- Each parish pastor has been delegated to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation to all those who have been in the confirmation preparation process.

The arrangements will depend on the restrictions imposed by the governor when the current restrictions are relaxed. (Dare I suggest dropping him a note?)

We'll keep everyone posted once we know more, but the good news is that some uncertainty about the conferral of the Sacrament has been clarified.



From the Pastor



Having our health is the best news of all in these times, for all of us who have either managed to prevent infection or have overcome it, some of us even without knowing it. We all pray for those who have died and their families, especially since the usual solace of wake services, church funerals and family graveside burials remain out of reach. Remaining isolated from friends and loved ones only adds to the separation of sickness. Beside the fear of illness and death, financial insecurity also takes a toll on our health. The financial impact on our parish and school has been grave. Though the school campus is closed, education is continuing online. This is good news for our students and their parents and we are so glad that our most recent upgrades of school technology have been proving worthwhile.

Our continuing education means most of our school payroll expenses continue unabated. Families are falling behind in their tuition payments and this along with the deficit the school has been running this year creates a difficult situation for the school. Group fundraising activities have also been severely limited. With Sunday collections plummeting, the church will be in no position to assist for very long.

Most employees of Holy Cross Church have been placed on furlough. Those who continue to work do so as volunteers. We are grateful for their loyal service. The parish will eventually be receiving funds under the Small Business Loan program to help our school payroll and pay some of our expenses. The parish has also applied for a 90-day mortgage moratorium from our lending bank. Thanks to proactive initiatives from our business manager and Finance Council, we were a bit ahead of the curve.

With the medical and financial landscape changing daily, our immediate goals are to get through this crisis as a parish and school, including graduating our Class of 2020. The bishop sent new directives on the Sacrament of Confirmation days ago. (see article)

Thank you to all who have sent cards and notes of support and especially to those who continue to pay their tuition and support the church through online giving or mailed in donations. We really need everyone's help to their best capacity!

Remember to follow along online every day with Mass and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Fr. Manning

P.S. I've been feeling fine, thank you for your prayers.

Please be assured of mine.