

PASTOR'S CORNER

Plague Journal

Assistance Needed!

As the pandemic rolls on and on a matter needs to be brought to the attention of all St. Therese parishioners. My brothers and sisters we are very much in need of your increased financial assistance. Since the parish was forced to shut down in mid-March to the present moment our donations have averaged only 30% of normal. This is simply not sustainable and if these amounts are not increased, and soon, many financial changes will need to be made to personnel and staffing.

I do understand that many folks are not in a position to support the parish at this time due to their own financial circumstances and I certainly would not want them to place themselves or their families at undue risk. On the other hand, I think that some others might make the fallacious assumption that since one cannot attend Mass due to either health concerns or seating limitations one is not required to donate to the support of the local church. My friends, this is simply not the case! All of us are required to support the operations of our parish even if we ourselves cannot attend the Eucharist over a period of time. Please find it in your hearts to help your parish in this time of need. My genuine thanks to all of you for your consideration during these difficult times.

Requirements to Attend Mass – A Reminder

Stella would like me to remind you of a few items for all who attend any of our Masses on the weekend:

1. *Please do not seat yourselves.* Nor express a preference as to where you would like to be seated. The usher will seat you where they feel best given the overall plan in place to properly distance and minimize aerosol accumulation and air contamination. Thank you!
2. *We ask you not to kneel at any time during the liturgy.* This is to minimize the burden on our sanitizing teams who must sanitize all areas where contact with a person occurs. It is also to prevent areas from being touched with which others can more easily come in contact (such as the tops of pews which are touched when a person kneels and leans up against them). Kneeling is not required to validly attend Mass, hence no one has a “right” to do so. Please cooperate!
3. *All persons entering the church to attend Mass must wear masks at all times* (except when briefly removed in order to receive communion). If health conditions prevent someone from wearing a mask, then a face shield must be worn. If you don't have one or if even this is too much of a burden for health reasons, then you will not be able to attend Mass at this time.
4. As noted above, *please continue to make your normal level of financial donations* even if you cannot attend Mass or can only do so occasionally. Please drop your donation in the basket as indicated in the narthex as you leave the church. Alternatively, you can mail your donation into the parish office. Better yet! Call Penny Montani to arrange for a monthly automatic withdrawal.

5. St. Vincent de Paul is in desperate need of your continuing donation of foodstuffs. Please bring what you can to Mass and place in the basket on hand as you check into the church. Thanks for your help here as well – many more people are in dire need of our assistance!

6. Also, please know that we have a waiting list for each of our Masses. If you sign up and for some reason cannot make it, please let Stella or Angie know ASAP so that they can contact someone on the waiting list. Thanks!

Fr. Steve