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St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church Staying Connected During COVID-19

May 17, 2020

Sixth Sunday of Easter "I will ask the Father, and he will give you . . . the Spirit of truth." — John 14:16–17

Dear Friends,



Now that classes are over and exams are completed, I can share this story without worry.

When I was in College, I had a classmate, Steve who was taking a challenging class in Logic. The course and professor were known for exacting and demanding exams. The final exam was looming, and the professor mercifully told the class that each student would be permitted to bring in a single $8 \ge 11 \frac{1}{2}$ inch sheet with as much information as they could put on that one sheet for help during the test.

All of these years since, I still remember that on exam day, each student came to class clutching their precious pieces of paper with as much information as possible. Some students had crammed lines and lines of font so tiny and so numerous onto that single sheet that you had to wonder how they could read it. But Steve walked in with a single blank sheet and a friend who was a senior student and who had an 'A' in logic. Steve bent down and placed that single, blank sheet of paper on the floor next to his desk. His expert friend stood on the paper.

The professor noticed the extra body in the room and asked what he was doing. Steve piped up, "You said we could bring in whatever we could fit on a single piece of paper for help on this test, well, this is my help and he can fit on the paper!" The professor was baffled but, what could he say because ... well, that's what he said!

Steve followed the instructions to the letter and was the only student in that class to score an 'A' since he had his expert friend standing alongside him.

My friends, do you realize that The Holy Spirit is like that friend, standing alongside us, supporting us, and guiding and directing us in the right ways – if we seek the Spirit out and give the Spirit the place and the space to work in our life. When you are stressed or feeling overwhelmed, lost or confused, invite the spirit to stand beside and with you and see what difference it makes!

In the Divine Word, I am

Fr. Rick Andrus, SVD

RETURNING TO CELEBRATING MASS IN THE CHURCH

Bishop Duca gave permission to pastors to begin celebrating masses with congregations anytime beginning this Sunday ... and by Sunday May 24th with the regular schedule. However, by directive from Governor Edwards, we are limited to only 25% of seating capacity, meaning only 75 may attend each Mass.

Enter through the main door. Sanitize your hands. You must always wear masks all during Mass except to receive Communion (please sanitize your hands just prior to receiving Holy Communion) and maintain social distancing. Ushers have been asked to seat parishioners to maintain that social distance. Only families who live together may sit together without maintaining the 6 foot of separation. Parishioners are welcome to leave the church through any door but please do not gather to socialize!

This is still a profoundly serious time dealing with the Coronavirus. I believe that we need to begin this process very slowly, carefully and strategically because this virus attacks members of the African American community three times as much as it does the general population because of compromised immune systems.

So, I strongly urge people with any of these conditions to consider not returning to public masses at this time.

Everyone who is ill should also remain at home.

We continue to live stream our masses this Sunday at 10:00 o'clock and beginning the following Sunday at 10:30. Bishop Duca has also extended indefinitely the dispensation from our obligation to attend mass for those who may feel uncomfortable for any reason with returning to public masses.

Next Sunday, May 24th we will begin our regular schedule of Masses at 7:30 and 10:30, again, limited to only 75 parishioners for each Mass.

This is a hard way to begin returning to celebrating our Masses and to the community of people we love and faith that we are after nearly 2 months of isolation from one another – but in order to look out for the very best of everyone, this is what we must do for the foreseeable future as we pray for better days God still has in store for us ahead. I ask for your prayers and your patience as we begin to adjust to the new norm and begin living with the peace only Jesus can give in the midst of the chaos of Covid 19.

+Fr. Richard Andrus, SVD





May they rest in peace... Our deepest sympathy is extended to the Young family at the passing of

Ms. Hattie Young, and to the Joseph family at the passing of Mr. Jessie Joseph. May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

Prayer Call - Sundays at 6:00 P.M. Join us in praying the Rosary and asking the Blessed Mother to intercede for us during this COVID-19 Global Pandemic. Please join us by calling 701-802-5490.

Bible Study Conference Call Wednesdays at 6:00 P.M. Join us by calling 978-990-5317. Access Code 1966852#



CELEBRATING MAY 17th - 23rd BIRTHDAYS

Janie Sanfie 5/17 Jordan Clanton 5/18 Debra Landry 5/18 Courtlyn Patterson 5/18 Millicent Primas 5/18 David Thompson, III 5/20



Ruther Hall 5/21 Javcee Mathis 5/21 Joseph Mathis 5/21 Gloria Hayward 5/23 Roosevelt Leonard 5/23 Marcus Williams 5/23



PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK AND HOMEBOUND

Audrey Christopher, Mary Smart, Carolyn Christophe, Dorothy Bazile, Myrtis Coleman, Robert Seals, Mona Seals, Sylvia Collier, Lena Batiste, Marie Myles, George Bell, Mary Lena Price, Willis Reed, Jr., Annie Joseph, Rosa Johnson, Harry Sills, Denovas Crockett, Jasman Benjamin, James Hayward, Gussie Trahan, Cheryl Crockett, Brenda D. Hickman, Quincy

Hamilton, Charles Davis, Jr., Jessie Joseph, Rose Crockett Carter, Dianna Franklin, Meredith Jones, Gregory Cornell, George Cornell, Mable King, Barbara Rodney, and Mercedes Mackey

PRAY FOR SICK FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Ronnie Gauthier, Helen Celestine, Florence Jackson, Geraldine Floyd, Betty Hammond, Frank Ross, Mona Bossier Bailey, Walker Williams, Barbara Brennan, Richard Dillon, Calvin Thomas, III, Joel Rivera, Dorie Martin, Alberta Conner, Martha Reinhart, Dana Simoneaux, Nichelle Hollins, Jessica Hughes, Ernie Butitta, Edna Dixon, Charles Bethley, Janet Bossier, and Jenna Scott

WE MUST DO BETTER THAN "GO BACK"

IT'S TIME TO ...

RE-IMAGINE LOUISIANA

a statewide assembly of congregations & citizen organizations

TUE | MAY 26TH | 5:30 - 7PM

with guests Gov. John Bel Edwards, state & local officials

First 1,000 participants will join by Zoom **Overflow on FACEBOOK LIVE**

register to attend / sign up a participating institution at

togetherla.org



