



ST. AUGUSTINE PARISH

413 W. 19TH ST. • COVINGTON, KY 41014
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8 April 2020

My dear friends:

Praised be Jesus Christ! Now and forever!

As I write, it is Spy Wednesday... in reference to Judas “spying” on the Lord, looking for a way to hand him over to the authorities. This morning, I would usually be preparing to celebrate Sung Solemn Vespers with all of you in the church... and hopefully, all of you would be preparing delicious dishes for our parish potluck dinner. How things have changed!

How could something so small, invisible really, have such an impact on us as individuals, as a nation, and a world? That got me thinking! It’s not the great big things that have an impact on the world, it’s always the small ones. St. Teresa of Calcutta once said: “Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.” And, “I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples.” It is in the everyday acts of love and kindness that we have the strongest impact.

This week is Holy Week, tomorrow we begin the most solemn and sacred celebrations of the year... the Sacred Triduum. Our celebration of the Lord’s love for us... the celebration of His Passion, Death and Resurrection. It is sad that we are not be able to gather together in person because of the social distancing requirements, but this does not stop us from being a community of faith, dedicated disciples of Jesus Christ, and promoters of love! In fact, although we are living through a period of evil (which is an absence of the good), we have the opportunity to emulate the Lord in having a transformative effect on the lives of those we encounter. How?

The cross for centuries was used as an instrument of fear and dread. It would bring about pain and despair, and would lead eventually to death. But, with the Lord Jesus’ crucifixion, the cross was transformed into a sign of faith, hope and love. And although it could still bring about physical suffering, it no longer caused despair for the believer because it led not to death, but to eternal life!

Think now of the many opportunities for grace... the family meals and comradery that are possible. Think of the time for silence and prayer in your own life, were you can better hear the Lord speak. You can’t be running to the store, to the sports practice, to the places you used to go. You can read the book that has sat on your nightstand forever, catch up on that Netflix show (ok... many shows!), do the Spring cleaning, fix whatever! It’s an opportunity for imagination... especially for our youngest parishioners.

Let us take the evil that is now in the world and make it a good. Let us find joy in the midst of fear. And as we experience the peace the Lord brings in these moments of anxiety, we have the opportunity to evangelize... to spread the Gospel. Joy and happiness are more contagious than COVID-19; and our joy and happiness come from knowing Jesus Christ, who died and rose again from the dead!

As you can image, there is not too much going on here at the parish. The work continues on the interior of the church building... it looks like another two weeks until the scaffolding comes down.

Just yesterday, the frames for the saints on the transept walls came in; they should be put up today and tomorrow. I was shocked at how big they are... at least 6 feet in diameter! I'm still impatiently waiting for them to finish one of the pillars (making it look like stone) ... Deacon Jordan (who is my art consultant) really didn't like what they had done on one pillar and made them start over! I also came to learn that the boss made the same assessment. They finished the capitals of the pillars yesterday... a lot of detail work... looks spectacular... can't wait for you all to see.

One thing you will notice when you are back down at church is that a tree is missing. Fr. Michael cut it down (at my request) to make way for a new parish sign and statue which will go on the top of the hill at the corner of 19th St. and Euclid Ave. To the right is a picture of the almost finished statue.



We continue to pray for each of you every day... Fr. Michael and I offer the Holy Mass privately for the parish intentions and the faithful and an end to the pandemic.

I hope you will join us in the celebrations of Holy Week and Easter by live-streaming the services.

Chrism Mass on Holy Thursday at 10:00AM
Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday at 6:00PM
Good Friday at 3:00PM
Easter Vigil at 8:30PM
Easter Sunday Mass at 10:00AM

One last thought, at the conclusion of every daily Mass when the school children are present, they offer a prayer of Thanksgiving to the Lord. One that has been on my mind of late is simply titled: "Prayer After Mass". Since we can't be together for Mass, I think it is appropriate that we pray this prayer regularly, in the joy of coming back together.

Prayer After Mass

Dear Jesus, I am going away for a time, but I trust not without you. Be in my mind, that I may have no evil thoughts. Be on my lips, that I may speak no evil words. Be in my heart, that I may have no evil feelings. Keep me true to you this day. Amen.

If you need ANYTHING – call the rectory/office – 859-431-3943.

Prayers and Blessings!

Very Reverend Daniel L. Schomaker
Pastor

PS – The image of the holy card is from another stained-glass window in the parish rectory.