



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, PLATTSMOUTH, NEBRASKA

Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 29, 2020

Pastor: Rev. Michael Houlihan
 Senior Priest in Residence: Rev. Valerian Bartek
 Priest in Residence: Rev. Gary Gross
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PARISH WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

All public Masses have been suspended.

The priests will be saying private Masses, with the following intentions:

Monday, March 30

+All Souls Day Intentions
+George & Rosemary Miller

Tuesday, March 31

Special Intention for M.W. and family
+Roland & Patricia Yost

Wednesday, April 1

Living & Deceased members of Aylor and Bergmann families
+Marie Anderson

Thursday, April 2

+Randy Rademacker
Special Intention for St. John's School families

Friday, April 3

+Florence Bryant
+Bobby Lee Brown

Saturday, April 4

+Robert G. & Rita Kiser
Deceased members of Kriskey & Matthews family

Sunday, April 5

+Bob Rice
People of the Parish

CONFESSIONS:

For now, Saturdays 3:30-4:30pm

Contributions sent in for March 22, 2020

General Collection	\$	7,388.00
General Online Giving	\$	9,920.33
Debt Reduction	\$	870.00
Debt Reduction Online Giving	\$	330.00
Teachers/Staff	\$	10.00
Utilities Online Giving	\$	20.00
Combined Relief	\$	230.00
Combined Relief Online Giving	\$	295.00

This week's featured Seminarian: Liam O'Shea-Creal from Lincoln, who entered seminary in 2015 and is now in Theology 2 at Mount St. Mary Seminary. We pray, too, for Adam Bohan from Plattsmouth, who entered seminary for the Society of Jesus in 2015.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic:

Here is a general list of cancellations for now:

All public Masses, including First Communion and Holy Week services
St. John the Baptist School closed at least through April 30th
Scheduled meetings, gatherings, and events

We encourage parish and school meetings to be organized to meet on Zoom or some other platform.

Still on:

CONFESSIONS: For now, Saturdays 3:30-4:30pm, in the Sanctuary
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. As of now, we are able to continue this, as it is an individual prayer experience and different steps are being taken, such as sanitizing hands, etc. Elderly, health impaired, etc., please let us know if you think you should not continue to be coming in for your hour and you cannot get a sub.

Registration at St. John the Baptist for Pre-K-8 students

for the 2020-21 school year is now open.

Please go to www.cdolinc.net/registration to enroll your child for the 2020-2021 school year. This includes registration for three-and-four-year-old preschool classes. Contact the school office at 402-296-6230 if you have any questions.



The School Advisory Council is currently taking nominations

to fill two open positions. To be eligible, a candidate must be an adult over 18, who is in agreement with the mission of the Parish and School, and have a genuine commitment to Catholic school education. Applications are available in the Commons (near the St. Joseph's room), or on our website stjbcatholic.com under parents place. The council meets on the second Tuesday of each month in the school library. Terms are 3 years starting in June 2020. If interested, please contact Donna Weeda at 402-510-7290 or stjbcatholic@gmail.com. Deadline for applications is Monday, April 6th.

Holy Communion

While we cannot go to Mass, if you so desire, you can make a spiritual communion by praying the following prayer:

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Blessed Sacrament.

I love You above all things and I desire You in my soul.

Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

As though You were already there, I embrace You and unite myself to You.

Permit not that I should ever be separated from You. Amen.

"Stewardship of Talent" Dinners for Fr. Houlihan, Fr. Bartek, Fr. Gross:

Thank you to this great team, especially during these times we are in! Mar 30: Kacey Groshans, Apr 1: Deb Warga, Apr 2: Bill Boyle, Apr 6: Rita Vigneri, Apr 8: Steph Ball, Apr 9: Carla Wehling, Apr 13: Megan Hanneman, Apr 15: Bonnie Seyfer, Apr 16: Monica Yankus

FORMED.ORG In an effort to assist Catholics everywhere, they are opening their doors to make the FORMED platform **free to everyone** for 40 days. Sign up today and get immediate access to the best Catholic movies, faith formation videos, audio talks, and great children’s videos. Go to <https://formed.org/faithathome> You can cancel before the 40 days are up, and there will be no cost.

PASTOR’S NOTES:

Perpetual adoration stands! Although moved into the main body of the church, the monstrance with the Blessed Sacrament remains as a symbol of God’s Real Presence even in the midst of our current medical crisis and national emergency. In addition to the regular adorer, there has been the occasional visitor who “makes a visit.” Thanks to all who are praying for the rest of us during this time and, in fact, at all times (including those who are praying at home!). Should the need arise (too many open hours), we will repose the Eucharist in the tabernacle and encourage as many of the adorers who would be able to keep their hour to do so. But for now, perpetual adoration stands! Thanks to our regular adorers and substitutes!

I want to thank Terry Little, Deb Walton, and Pat Carroll for making our “live streaming” Mass on Sunday possible for people. Apparently, some 1200 people (or at least electronic devices) were able to catch some of the Mass (either live at 9 A.M. or recorded when available over the following 24 hours)—that is twice what an average “physical” attendance is. Although I have not used it extensively in the past, some of the modern communication tools that make “virtual meetings” possible (where all are participating from their own offices or homes) or “live streaming” on Facebook or the church’s web page, are quite helpful during this difficult time. Sue Stevens, our faithful parish administrative assistant, found that nearly 400 of our household “units” (397 to be exact) have some home connection to the internet, while 136 do not. In addition to the emails that are sent to parishioners, we are going to have a “calling tree” to reach those who do not have email, if a traditional letter will take too long. Thanks to all who volunteered to help with that (many of you were recruited on the last day of public Mass here).

School continues! Not only have we finished our standardized testing before the shutdown, but our great teachers made a quick adjustment to enable and support learning at home. It is truly a remarkable time. A time of great challenges, but a time of great leaps forward in many things.

We appreciate all the people that have mailed in their contributions or even slipped them under the

office door. If anyone signs up for automatic giving, you are especially to be commended. Just as many individuals and families and businesses are currently stressed financially, so will our parish be. One of our parish leaders (parish council) suggested the “pay forward” system—if you are in a position to pay your whole yearly tithe now, you are encouraged to do so. Although things seem a little dark now, we have many, many committed and engaged people who will see us through the next critical year or so. Our faithful bookkeeper Noni Thiesen is currently working with the diocesan finance office to plan a strategy for the upcoming challenging months and we will be in contact with finance committee members sometime after the quarter is finished in a couple of days (March 31). God bless all of our generous people!

Fr. Bartek is scheduled to finish his “self-quarantine” after returning from the Holy Land and will be with us, at least for a while, beginning Monday. He has been staying with his sister (who went with him to Israel and Jordan) and brother-in-law in Omaha the last two weeks.

Confessions are available on Saturday from 3:30-4:30 in the afternoon or by appointment with the physically-correct distancing requirements in the area between the church and the school. Please limit the number of persons in the church at any one time to ten (including the priest and the adorer(s)). We will not be able to have extra priests helping next weekend (as usual), but there should be opportunities made available for those who want to receive this sacrament before Easter. More later on Holy Week.

It is traditional to cover statues in the church starting this weekend, for we are entering the last two weeks before Pascha or Easter, the two weeks that were traditionally called “Passiontide” (including Holy Week). The covering is a stark reminder of what we faced, had Christ not come as our Redeemer—the starkness of heaven being closed to us and eternity in hell—of course, that is still a possibility for any individuals that persist in clinging to sin and rejecting the Good News, but Jesus really did come to redeem the whole world! No one needs to be “beyond the pale.”

Father Houlihan