



ST. PATRICK PARISH

140 Church Street • Portland, MI 48875
Phone: (517) 647-6505 | Fax: (517) 647-7807

March 20, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

As I was spending time in the chapel yesterday, I ran across an interesting item. It is a Mass card dated August 11, 2017 commemorating the mission you had with the relics of St. Padre Pio. On the front is a beautiful picture of St. Padre Pio and these words: "PRAY, HOPE, & DON'T WORRY". The rest of the quote reads: "Worry is useless. God is merciful and will hear your prayer". How fitting for the circumstances in which we find ourselves. It is the Lenten call for all of us to take the time to pray and to surrender our worries and concerns to the Lord and to hope for the better day that is to come.

I would like to encourage you in these difficult times to pray individually and with your families. To use this time not to further isolate through electronic media like our phones, computers, and gaming devices. But rather to interact with our families in ways that draw us out from ourselves and cause us to interact with those we love the most. Praying the rosary together is an excellent way to invite God into our families as is reading the daily readings found on the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website. Break out a board game especially the ones that make you laugh. Play cards with each other and share your time and presence with one another. Love and laugh!

The hardest part for me has been the celebration of Mass without you. My prayer has been that I would grow in my thirst and hunger for the Eucharist as your pastor and that you would grow in your thirst and hunger for the Eucharist in your absence from the altar. That together, as we grow in our desire for Christ in the sacrifice of the Mass, we would draw the souls who have abandoned their faith back to the glory of the sacraments. How awesome would it be to allow God to use us in such a way, when the large majority of Catholics do not attend Mass regularly? Just think if we were able to double our weekly attendance at Sunday Mass...it really is what God desires for us and from us, to come to Him and be loved in the Eucharist. So, let's use our absence to develop a hunger for the One who loves us.

Please visit me in the confessional. We can use this time to make things right with God. To allow him to be God and to understand that we are not. Ultimately, we are dependent upon Him for everything and that everything is a gift if we allow it to be...even the messes. Where sin and evil abound, grace abounds all the more!

Please continue to find the schedule of events until further notice,

Fr. Mike



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Confession schedule:

Tuesdays: 5:00 p.m.

Friday: 2:30 p.m.

Saturday: 9:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 26: 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 8: 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

The church is open 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. for prayer until every day of the week.

Please come and visit. I miss you!