

Sacred Heart-St. Joseph Parish
227 S.W. Van Buren Street
Topeka, Kansas 66603
785-232-2863
J.M.J.



March 18th, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

Greetings from Sacred Heart-St. Joseph Parish in Topeka! I am sending this letter to let you know first of all that I am praying for you and your families during these challenging times and to secondly inform you of recent developments and concerns.

Effective, at 1 p.m. on March 17th, Archbishop Naumann in conjunction with the Bishops of Kansas, cancelled all public celebrations of the Holy Mass in the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas except funeral masses until further notice. Also, the Topeka Regional Penance Services have all been cancelled in all parishes of the region including our own. The regularly scheduled 6 p.m. private confessions on Wednesdays at St. Joseph Church during Lent will be retained. The Friday Stations of the Cross during Lent have been cancelled as well as the Friday Lenten Fish Dinners. The Lenten Presentation on Wednesday evenings at Sacred Heart Church has also been cancelled.

In looking ahead, due to the many concerns of this pandemic and its potential impact on the safety of all involved, it has been decided to cancel Germanfest for 2020. There were many factors involved in making this difficult decision. Too many to list here in this letter. A decision had to be made and therefore cancellation seemed the best and safest answer.

In regards to our spiritual lives and as a person that likes to have everything well planned, I have learned a great lesson through all of this experience. I have learned to trust more that the Lord will lead us and guide us through it all and I have surrendered my will more to His. I pray that I may be truly wise in the decisions that need to be made daily, but I am learning to go with the flow and trust in His divine providence. I encourage myself and all of you to continue praying at home, especially invoking prayers to the Blessed Virgin Mary for her assistance under the titles of Our Lady of Perpetual Help and Health of the Sick. Consider praying a rosary each day and if possible, watch the daily mass on the Eternal Word Television Network. We can do acts of mercy by making phone calls to our elderly and those confined to home by phone calls checking on their well-being. We can also write "thinking of you" notes to others and mail them.

Finally, I ask that you keep in mind the financial needs of our parish. As you know from your own experiences, our financial responsibilities and needs are still present even as this pandemic is occurring. I've reminded you many times that you are a very generous people. We will need to rely on your continued generosity, especially now that weekend masses are cancelled and the large income generated from Germanfest will not be this year. With all that in mind, please consider mailing your weekly contributions to the parish. We are relying heavily on your ongoing support. It is very critical to have this support coming in to keep us financially secure.

I will close for now. I will be offering a private mass each day for you, your family, and the needs of the world during this difficult time. Jesus, we trust in you!

Blessings,

Fr. Tim Haberkorn