



Saint James Catholic Church

March 26, 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners of Saint James,

Thank you to everyone who has sent messages promising prayers and offering to help Parishioners in need during these unusual days. Please let us know if you are aware of any Parishioner who needs help. And thanks to so many of the faithful who have come to the Church to pray during Adoration and to take advantage of Confession. I want to share one email that was exceptionally meaningful to me.

Fathers-

Know I'm thinking and praying for you all!

What are you doing God?

You're allowing me to still attend Mass with our beloved priests in my home.

You're allowing me to fully rely on you at a time when I'm not sure what I can rely on

You're allowing me to reach out to others I'm usually too busy to reach out to.

*You're allowing me to check in with others regularly that I normally do once a year
via a Christmas card.*

You're allowing me to think more deeply about you and what you want me to be.

The list of what He is doing will continue to grow.

*Please know we love you very much and are blessed to have you. Please also know
that we are praying for you and know how difficult this time is for you.*

*Please know even though you can't minister to us in person, you are felt ministering
to us in prayer and spirit.*

AN IMPORTANT UPDATE: As of Friday morning, March 27th, due to the Governor's Executive Order on Wednesday, March 25 that only "Life-Sustaining Businesses" can remain open the Parish Office will be closed until further notice. You can still reach us via the telephone (270-765-6268) or email. If someone is seriously ill or dying, one of us will, of course, be available for the Sacrament. But what should everyone else do? We need to remember what the Church has always taught: if it is not possible to receive Sacramental Absolution, you should make an *Act of Perfect Contrition*, express to God a sincere request for forgiveness, and firmly resolve to make a Sacramental Confession as soon as possible. By doing this, you will obtain the forgiveness of sins, even mortal sins (see Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 1452). Do not let your conscience be troubled! No one is bound to do the impossible.

I have included below (in English and Spanish) some forms of the Act of Contrition that you can pray every day.

Unless another ecclesiastical directive or executive order is given by Archbishop Kurtz or Governor Beshear, we will continue with our Saturday and Sunday schedule of Confession (9 am to 11 am) and on Monday from 6 pm to 8 pm. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be suspended until further notice. The Church will remain open for private prayer - 9am to 4:30 pm daily. Please observe the social distancing requirement at all times.

Archbishop Kurtz has decreed that there will be no public Masses or Ceremonies for Holy Week -- Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. I am deeply aware that it is a challenging

experience to be “distant from the Eucharist.” I encourage everyone to consider this time as one of a rigorous “fast” and as a personal sacrifice uniting yours with Christ’s own. We are developing a plan so that you and your family can have access to the liturgies of Holy Week via the Saint James Catholic Church YouTube live-streaming channel.

Pope Francis will give an extraordinary blessing "urbi et orbi" at 6 p.m. Rome time (1 p.m. Eastern) March 27th. There is more about this included below and on our website.

Please remember that your priests are praying for you daily - with Private Masses and the Divine Office. Please pray for us too! You can monitor any updates on the Parish Website.

God bless you and keep you safe and healthy,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Martin A. Linebach". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Very Rev. Martin A. Linebach, V.G.
Pastor

Forms of the *Act of Contrition* you can pray every day, in English and Spanish:

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins, because I dread the loss of Heaven and the pains of hell, but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, Who art all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve with the help of Thy grace to confess my sins, to do penance, and to amend my life. Amen.

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against You Whom I should love above all things, I firmly intend, with Your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In His name, my God, have mercy. Amen.

Señor mío Jesucristo, Dios y Hombre verdadero, Creador, Padre y Redentor mío; por ser vos quien sois, bondad infinita, y porque os amo sobre todas las cosas, me pesa de todo corazón haberos ofendido; también me pesa porque podéis castigarme con las penas del infierno. Ayudado de vuestra divina gracia, propongo firmemente nunca más pecar, confesarme y cumplir la penitencia que me fuere impuesta. Amén.