

ST. MARIA GORETTI CATHOLIC CHURCH

500 NORTHGATE DRIVE • DYER, IN 46311 • (219) 865-8956 • FAX (219) 322-1670

March 18, 2020

Dear Friends,

I hope you are reasonably happy, and I wish you were here but, alas, you are not and that is hopefully good news for all of us. We are in for a strange ride, I think, a ride that I really believe might be good for us in that we are going to learn things about ourselves that we probably would not have known.

What I could learn is that most humans who have ever lived have lived their lives with just the kind of uncertainty and lack of control that we are experiencing in this health care crisis and they survived and thrived quite nicely as we are the proof so let's just take it a day at a time and not get ahead of ourselves.

That being said, I hope we are all back together soon at with wonderful music, lots of children, the ice cream truck, a fish fry or two, and familiar faces that smile and hands that are able to touch other hands as they wish.

As of Tuesday, March 17, ALL Sunday Masses have been cancelled in all Indiana parishes. Funerals are still permitted but the 10 person policy would seem to indicate that a private funeral would take place at the funeral home with a memorial Mass to follow after the health crisis is over which it will be sooner or later. You may check on all updates for our parish BY CALLING 219.865.8956 or visiting www.stmariagorettichurch.org

Thanks to the creative and talented mind of Adam White, a sophomore at Lake Central, we will be video recording Sunday Mass which you can watch at your convenience and as of now that young people in our music ministry adhering to all guidelines will be present to share their enthusiasm and talent to lift your spirits.

Details for viewing Sunday Mass are as follows:

Go to our website: www.stmariagorettichurch.org OR
go to our St. Maria Goretti Church Facebook page to find the link
that will allow you to view the recorded Sunday Masses

Because of your consistent exceptional generosity, I have informed all of our employees that they will be paid as normally if they work from home or work here. If they get sick, they will be required to stay home, and they will be paid their normal pay.

When our maintenance people work on site they will be paid at a rate of time and a half because they will be cleaning and sanitizing our spaces trying to keep them safe for required services when we may have them again.

The 50/50 Raffle drawing is suspended and will resume after this whole thing is over. All 50/50 envelopes turned in will remain unopened until we are able to resume the drawing so if you use a check do not be anxious about it clearing your accounts. Please remember, when using checks, you still must write out one check for the offering envelope and one check for the 50/50 envelope to qualify for the drawing.

So, that being said, you can continue to use your envelopes whether or not you play the 50/50 but if you do play the 50/50 the first winnings could be substantial because the total will increase each week with no winner because we will be unable to draw a winning number so the pot will roll over.

You can drop off or mail your envelopes each week or you can hold them all at home and drop them all in the basket when things return to normal and we can all be together at Mass again. If you choose to drop them off there is a drop box on the porch of the office just to the right of the door.

You can call me through our main office number 219.865.8956, x304 at anytime, or you can email me at nedgan@yahoo.com with questions or just to talk should you feel alone or overwhelmed and if you do, please know that you are not alone.

Peace,

Fr. Charles Niblick

P.S. Any Mass scheduled to be said while we are in this isolation mode will be rescheduled as soon as possible when things return to normal at the convenience of the person scheduling the Mass.

Any Catholic Services Appeal material that you may receive was not sent by me, ignore and discard it.