

# ST. ANN'S PARISH

*A church to come home to since 1920*



## *A note From the Pastor*

*While it's early into our shut down over the Covid-19 virus, it seems like a very long time. As I celebrate daily Mass I miss the many faces I've grown use to. While the public celebration of the Eucharist has been temporarily restricted, I want you to know that the Eucharist remains at the heart of our ministry here at St. Ann's.*

*As I celebrate the Eucharist each day, I offer special prayers for our parish, especially those who are elderly and may be alone.*

*I encourage all of us to pay close attention to the restrictions that have been put into place to slow the spread of this virus. It truly is the work of the community to help heal our broken society.*

*I also encourage everyone to participate in the special Novena (see below) to end the pandemic, and to use this time to slow down and review and renew our lives in Christ.*

*You all are in my prayers.*

*Peace,*

*Fr. Brian*

*Remember in Your Prayers*  
ALL THOSE AFFECTED BY THE CORONAVIRUS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Compassionate and Loving Father,  
In the face of confusion and concern  
Impart to us the calm of Your presence.  
In You allow us to find hope and healing.  
Be with those who serve the sick and  
give them Your caring hands.  
Be with those who lead and give them  
Your spirit of wisdom.  
Be with those who have fallen ill and  
give them Your comforting heart.  
Wrap Your arms around our world  
and hold us in Your love.  
Allow us at this time of trial to then  
serve as instruments of that love  
to all we meet.  
We ask this in Your Name.  
*Amen*

March 29, 2020 - The Fifth Sunday in Lent

## NOVENA PRAYER

### FOR AN END TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

*O Mary, full of grace, Patroness of this nation and Mother of the Church, in this time of illness and worldwide need we seek your intercession for the human family before your Son's throne of grace and mercy.*

*We ask for strength in adversity, health in weakness, and comfort in sorrow.*

*Help us, O Blessed Mother, to be filled with confidence and trust in the tender compassion of our God. Let us not be afraid, like our own Saint Marianne Cope, who entrusted her life and ministry among the outcasts of society into the care of our Divine Physician.*

*Continue to watch over all who are sick as well as those who care for them and give wisdom to all who are seeking a cure. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.*

*Amen.*

# A Faith Response to the Coronavirus

**T**he coronavirus outbreak is stirring up anxiety, confusion, and major inconveniences. It is a situation in which we can easily overreact or underreact. How can our faith tradition guide and comfort us through this troubling time?

A good starting point is to remember that the most repeated phrase in the Bible is “Do not be afraid!” or “Have no fear!” God probably sends us this message so frequently because fear is such a big part of human nature. Fear can alert us to dangers in our lives to keep us safe, but fear can also lead us astray, toward selfish responses.

## Enough for Everyone

Of course, we see these same dynamics play out in Scripture, where fear leads to hoarding. The most famous story is when the Israelites are in the desert without food (Exodus 16). God rains down manna from heaven but also cautions them to take only what they need for now. They disobey but find that the food they attempt to store away goes bad immediately. The consistent message we hear in the Bible is that we need to trust in God, who will provide enough for everyone. The problems come when people begin to take more than they need.

Fear of the coronavirus has caused some to stockpile and hoard unreasonable amounts of hand sanitizer, face masks, and other supplies against the recommendations of leaders. The problem is that this wipes out supplies for those who truly need them the most—health care workers and those most vulnerable to the disease—without really making the buyers safer.

## Protect the Vulnerable

Scripture and the social teachings of the church remind us again and again that we—as individuals and a society—must protect and give priority to those who are most vulnerable and at risk. We see this from the laws in the Old Testament that looked out for the poor and the widows, to Jesus’ embrace of people on the margins of society, to the early church’s adamant support of those who had less. The Bible urges us to put those who are most at risk first. In the midst of the coronavirus, the vulnerable take many forms. Most obvious are those who are elderly or

have other health conditions that make them most susceptible to illness. Those who are younger may not be concerned about our own health risks, but if we help pass on the virus, it can be a life-or-death situation for others.

Others are financially vulnerable and do not have the flexibility to take sick leave that many of us take for granted. That puts them in a difficult situation when they become ill and may have to choose between putting their job at risk and staying home to protect others. Likewise, many parents do not have the flexibility to stay home when school is canceled for their children. The situation is impacting many others, such as small business owners who may already be on shaky financial ground.

## A Spirit of Sacrifice

This health crisis is challenging many of us to make sacrifices in our lives. Some are huge, such as those made by exhausted health care workers around the world, desperately trying to keep patients alive (while avoiding the illness themselves).

Other sacrifices fall more in the category of inconveniences. It is inconvenient when events are canceled, schools close, and travel is limited. It is inconvenient to wash our hands intentionally and regularly. But this kind of sacrifice is at the very center of our faith. Every time we gather around the Lord’s Table, we celebrate the powerful way Christ showed us how to love others. He sacrificed *everything* in self-giving love for us, and he invited us to do the same. In turn, we die to ourselves—

through inconveniences and more—in order to love those around us. Truly loving others will always cost us something. Actions that may not entirely make sense to us can have huge effects.

Scientists point to the 1918 flu when St. Louis proactively and aggressively closed its schools to prevent infections.

Death rates in the city



were about one third those in Pittsburgh, which was much slower to close its schools. Thousands of lives were saved.

We may grumble about or resist changing our habits, especially if it's unclear what's in it for us. But we need to remember that many of these actions are more about protecting others. Perhaps the invitation amidst this crisis is to embrace the inconveniences fully, and then move *beyond* them to seek out the best ways to serve those who are most in need.

## Loving Our Neighbor

Community is essential to us as Christians. We are the Body of Christ, and we know that when two or more gather in Jesus' name, he is present with us. So it may be a bit harder for us to handle the "social distancing" happening in many communities.

Our call to community is not only in the context of our church but also in our neighborhood community. How do we literally love our neighbor? How can we be witnesses on our streets?

One way is to regularly check in on your neighbors who may be vulnerable and isolated. Offer to deliver groceries or other items for them or to run other errands so they won't have to risk infection by leaving their home.

Be a positive, calming influence in any online neighborhood communities. Don't spread rumors or hysteria, but find ways to support each other through the crisis.

## Living the Virtues

Ultimately, as with life in general, we are called to live out the four cardinal virtues:

- **Prudence** - Carefully discern the best course of action, not just for ourselves, but for the good of all. Ask: What action does God want me to take?
- **Justice** - Seek fairness for everyone, especially those who need it most. Ask: Who is not getting the help that they need?
- **Temperance** - Find a healthy balance between self care and care for others. Ask: Do I err toward selfishness or an unhealthy co-dependence?
- **Fortitude** - Persevere in times of trial and difficulty. Ask: Do I have the courage to do the right thing even when the going gets tough?

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## What You Can Do

- **Stop the spread.** Even if you are not particularly concerned about the risk to yourself or your own family, these tactics will protect *others* who may be more vulnerable. Many of us will carry the virus before having any symptoms (and may never develop any).
- **Wash your hands well** for at least 20 seconds with soap and water. Sing the refrain to Michael Joncas' song "On Eagle's Wings" ("And he will raise you up...") while you wash.
- **Avoid touching your face.**
- **Cough or sneeze into your elbow** or a tissue.
- **Follow the guidance of local officials.**
- **Stay home if you become ill.**
- **Don't take what you don't need.** Hoarding worsens the situation, and can lead to more infections and more impacts for the most vulnerable.
- **Leave the masks to others.** Masks only make sense for health care workers and those who are infected. They are not guaranteed to prevent transmission anyway.
- **Do not overbuy supplies.** Retailers are being wiped out of disinfectants and other supplies, leaving some who most need them without. Be prepared, but be thoughtful and reasonable.
- **Advocate for the vulnerable and targeted.**
- **Have compassion for those most at risk.** Stand up for those who need the most help and make sure they are being cared for, without judgment.
- **Fight racism.** Discrimination against those with Asian background only hurts the situation.
- **Proactively love your neighbor!**
- **Check in on isolated or vulnerable neighbors** and offer to help with specific tasks such as shopping, child or pet care, cleaning, etc.
- **If you are in a position of power,** use that power for the good of all. Allow workers to work from home or take time off, limit large gatherings, follow government guidance, etc.
- **Thank those on the front lines** who are protecting us, such as health care workers, police, firefighters. Be gentle and kind with them.
- **Pray** for all those affected by the crisis.



## Mass Intentions for the Week

### MON., MAR. 30; LENTEN WEEKDAY

7:00 am Communion Service

9:00 am The People of the Parish

### TUESDAY, MAR. 31; LENTEN WEEKDAY;

7:00 am Communion Service

9:00 am Special intentions for Steven Yee (birthday) by Hahn Family

### WEDNESDAY, APR. 1; LENTEN WEEKDAY

7:00 am The People of the Parish

9:00 am The People of the Parish

### THURSDAY, APR. 2; ST. FRANCIS OF PAOLA, HERMIT

7:00 am The People of the Parish

9:00 am The People of the Parish

### FRIDAY, APR. 3; LENTEN WEEKDAY

7:00am Communion Service

9:00am Erlinda Monterosso by The Hulslander Family

### SATURDAY, APR. 4, VIGIL MASS

4:30 pm Joan Fiore by Sue and Steve Shaw

### SUNDAY, APR. 5; PALM SUNDAY

8:00 Ada & Charles Stewart by Arlene Stewart

10:15 Zana Assenza by The Neuss Family

12:00 Sp. Intentions for John Yee (birthday) by The Hahn Family

All Masses have been cancelled until further notice

Please know that Fr. Brian will be celebrating Mass each day privately in the chapel, where he will remember the prayer intentions listed above and for all those in our prayer list.



The Sanctuary Lamp is burning

March 29th thru April 4th

in loving memory of

**Joan Fiore**

Requested with love by Sue and Steve Shaw



### SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

My Jesus,

I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

### PRAYER LIST

Bill Dugan, Mary Pacini, Betty McCarthy, Gordan Bryant, Marilyn LaChanse, Ralph Brown, Carol Arman, Steven Yee, Diane Drake, Charlie Prior, Teresa Thomas, Guy Hobbs, Audrey Grace Foll, Bob Garrity, Valerie Koll, Betty Bolton, Elizabeth and Maryann Reifers Martin, Bobby Simone, Pauline Fallico, Andy Agrasto, Stanley Hillman, Kathleen Smith, Kathleen Crouse, Tara McDonald, Donna Castagna, Bernie Aiello, Jackie Kelley, .

# ST. ANN*iversary*

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF A FAMILY IN FAITH

## Let's Stay Connected

We want to keep in touch with our parish families! If you would like to receive our weekly newsletter please be sure we have your current email address by sending your request to: [parishoffice@saintannschurch.com](mailto:parishoffice@saintannschurch.com)

## Where can I watch Mass

[www.youtube.com/srydio](http://www.youtube.com/srydio) ( daily Mass live at noon)  
[Saintannschurch.com](http://Saintannschurch.com) (to view weekend Masses)

## Daily prayer

The Chapel at St. Ann's is open daily for private prayer. The Chapel is cleaned regularly throughout the day and hand sanitizer is available at the door. Please remember to keep a safe distance if others are there.

## Confessions

Confessions will be heard by Fr. Brian by appointment only. Please call 315-682-5181 x13 or 315-350-9903

## Mass Offerings

Parishioners, *if able*, are encouraged to support their churches during this time, by dropping off or mailing their Sunday offerings to the parish office or by donation via online giving. Many parishioners use our convenient WeShare Online Giving program.

For information about getting set up—please go to [saintannschurch.weshareonline.org](http://saintannschurch.weshareonline.org)

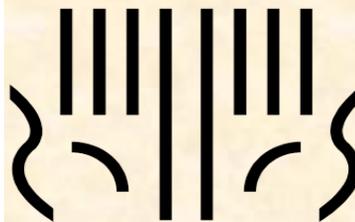
You may make a one-time gift from credit card, debit card, savings or checking.

Or set up a regular monthly donation.

. If you have questions about this program, please email [businessoffice@saintannschurch.com](mailto:businessoffice@saintannschurch.com)

## Weddings and Funerals

Will be permitted with immediate family and close friends, NOT to exceed the recommended number allowed by the CDC. For information please call our office at 315-682-5181.



Nevertheless, the righteous  
will hold to their ways, and  
those with clean hands will  
grow stronger.

J o b 1 7 : 9

## PRAYER CHAIN

*Prayer requests are given to each person on the chain via phone. The prayer chain is open to anyone in the parish who is in need of prayers. We want to extend an invitation to any parishioner who would like to be included in the prayer chain to call Terri at 315-682-1059*