



The Shell

An e-letter for

Saint James the Greater Church,
3565 Hubble Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45247

May 4, 2020

Dear Friends,

By now you should be aware that the bishops of Ohio have continued the suspension of public Masses **through May 29**. It is hoped that we will be able to resume public Masses on Saturday, May 30/Sunday, May 31, which is the feast of Pentecost. We are expecting guidelines on what we will have to do to make that work. I'll keep you posted.

Thank you to everyone who has been making the phone calls to parishioners during these weeks. They mean a lot to everyone. And *thank you* to everybody who answers! We all know how many people screen calls and sometimes it is a surprise when a somebody answers an unrecognized number. The callers are finding a lot of phone numbers no longer in service. We presume the landline is gone but we do not have cell numbers. If this is your situation, please let our office know your new numbers. The same is true for email addresses.

One of our callers said that a parishioner really wanted me to call her. When I did, she wanted to know how I am doing in this confinement and what I'm doing all day. Well, let's see.

Of course, there is Mass every day. I have found more time for prayer; on some days it has been like being on retreat in the monastery. Every weekday I open church and close church on most days. I am usually in my office for several hours. Our Business Manager, Amy Klosterman, has been in almost every day, too. We have dealt with a variety of issues that didn't go away because the office has been closed.

I have been answering a lot of emails. I have picked up phone messages left at the office number and passed them on to the staff working at home. (An aside: It is a surprise to me that so many people leave messages beginning, "I know your office is closed, but could you....." even though the voice mail message says we are closed.)

We are in the process of hiring a new employee. I have been studying the resumes. Using Zoom, we are interviewing candidates. There were web meetings and informational sessions from the archdiocese and other sources to watch. When the shut-down happened, the processing of a parish budget for next year stopped and now we have had to play catch-up. And there have been conversations and emails about what to do with parish events that were scheduled. Are they cancelled or postponed? For instance, our recruitment and training of new servers has been delayed. So, I've been trying to figure out how to catch up on that.

I have done a lot of waiting, too. Waiting for direction on what needs to be done when we do have Mass together, what to do with parish sporting events, what to do with baptizing those people who would have received that sacrament at Easter. Without much staff being here, I do whatever needs to be done. I'm still waiting for a chance to take a nap.

Again, there is a new electronic bulletin on the parish website. Please check it out and continue to support our advertisers in the bulletin.

God bless and don't forget to pray the *Memorare* at Noon.

Father Nolker

Notices

PUBLIC MASSES ARE SUSPENDED THROUGH MAY 29. See the full letter from the bishops of Ohio in the bulletin, which is online.

Parish Offices Reopen

Our main parish office will reopen on Monday, May 11. The hours will be 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The school's office will also reopen on May 11 for essential business. The hours will be 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This does not include access to classrooms.

Visitors should expect to follow social distancing and other precautions, such as possibly wearing masks.

8th Grade Graduation

Mr. Fulmer and Mrs. Riggins are working on a plan for a virtual graduation ceremony. They hope to post it on-line on May 22.

Mass Intentions

Scheduled Mass intentions for each week are listed in the bulletin on our website.

In these weeks we have not been accepting new Mass intentions because no one is in the office to process them.