



The Shell

An e-letter for

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

April 20, 2020

We are all looking forward to the safe re-opening of our social lives and work. It is unclear when schools will reopen for classroom instruction. In many ways, our future is fuzzy. I am sure that we will not be going back to what we have called “the normal.” The virus has changed much in our thinking and there is a new consciousness of being responsible for each other. Many things, like shaking hands, that we were used to doing may be very limited. What will this new “normal” look like? I don’t know.

What has the pandemic already changed? People are getting used to working in the virtual world. It will be part of the future to determine what creativity or cooperation is lost when people can’t spontaneously interact at work. At the same time, it may expand the acceptance of working from home, especially for parents of little children. I can only guess at what changes are possible in classrooms of the future where the technology certainly will expand. A couple of my friends whose families are spread across the country have now set a Zoom time each week to connect. That didn’t happen until the virus forced the issue. They won’t give it up when things are “normal” again.

Events drawing large crowds are being rethought because of the possibility of spreading the virus, which will remain an active part of our world until the right vaccines are available on a widespread scale. For instance, the Harvest Home Parade and Festival, held in September, are cancelled. Archbishop Schnurr was to lead a pilgrimage in September to the Oberammergau Passion Play in Germany. It has been cancelled. Even with the stray-at-home restrictions lifted, everybody will be cautious when in a large group of people. That is naturally going to happen.

We wait for directions for opening parish life, especially public Masses. Those guidelines will come from our archbishop and all the bishops of Ohio working together. I am sure they will reflect the governor’s recommendations. When will we know about this? Don’t know. What will the guidelines be? Don’t know. Will it be like it used to be? Probably not. What effect will there be since many Catholics have gotten used to watching Mass on line or on TV while sipping their coffee? Don’t know.

We journey into the new reality together knowing that God is leading us.

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

THE BISHOPS OF OHIO HAVE EXTENDED THE SUSPENSION OF PUBLIC MASSES UNTIL AND INCLUDING MAY 3.

Deaths

David Burck, husband of Mary
Died on April 13, 2020.

Confessions

Father is still hearing confessions on Saturday from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. He is sitting in the main part of the church. People coming to confession need to read the notices on the church doors. Only the person confessing should be in the church with Father. This protects the privacy of the person confessing and respects social distancing.

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church

#1458 Without being strictly necessary, confession of everyday faults (venial sins) is nevertheless strongly recommended by the Church. Indeed, the regular confession of our venial sins helps us form our conscience.

#1452 When it arises from a love by which God is loved above all else, contrition is called "perfect" (contrition of charity). Such contrition remits venial sins; it also obtains forgiveness of mortal sins if it includes the firm resolution to have recourse to sacramental confession as soon as possible.

It's always important remember what is taught in this paragraph:

#1859 Mortal sin requires *full knowledge* and *complete consent*. It presupposes knowledge of the sinful character of the act, of its opposition to God's law. It also implies a consent sufficiently deliberate to be a personal choice. (Emphases is in the original.)