

CONSTANT CONTACT – 03/20/2020

We welcome you to **Sunday Mass at St. Francis Xavier**. Beginning this weekend, a pre-recorded Sunday Mass will be posted on the parish website (www.sfxlg.org), and on Facebook and Instagram. We encourage you to worship with others at the time you usually attend Mass on weekends. In addition to this link, we are providing words to the hymns being sung. **Be daring** and join the virtual choir that will be singing with you throughout the La Grange area. Let us hold one another in communion. And please send your feedback to wtkachuk@sfxlg.org. Your feedback will help us make adjustments in the weeks to come.

Reflections by members of the parish staff will soon appear on Facebook and Instagram. Postings will begin soon, so keep an eye out.

The newly issued Shelter in Place Order for the State of Illinois requires several changes.

- The parish offices remain closed. A staff person will answer the phones (remotely) from **9AM-1PM Monday through Friday**. At all other hours, calls will go to our answering service; they can contact Fr. Bill for any urgent pastoral needs.
- The **church will be locked at 5PM this Saturday evening** and will remain closed until further notice.

We appreciate your patience as we settle into this new temporary reality.

There are new guidelines for Sacraments and special services:

- All **Baptisms and Marriages are postponed** until further notice. Call Fr. Bill to request Baptism in extreme circumstances.
- **Confirmation and First Communion** celebrations are on hold at present. We will notify teens and families if we need to reschedule these ceremonies.
- The Archdiocese will soon provide guidelines for celebrating the Sacrament of **Reconciliation**.
- Fr. Bill remains available for the **Anointing of the Sick**.
- **Funeral Masses have been postponed** until further notice.

Remember that we do this as an act of compassion for those who may be at serious risk if we do not observe these restrictions and unintentionally bring the virus to them.

Parish staff are working from home. All parish regular employees, whether full or part time, will be receiving their usual weekly wages during this period, even if unable to perform their usual responsibilities. This includes after-hours front desk staff, part-time custodial staff, musicians, and the priests who regularly assist with Masses. We consider this a matter of justice toward those who regularly serve us and rely on a steady source of income.

We are grateful to our **Food Pantry** volunteers, including those restricted by the CDC guidelines who are making the sacrifice of staying at home during this time. We can continue to operate the Food Pantry to serve the hungry. **We need non-perishable items, especially boxes of cereal, to restock our shelves.** However, given the restrictions of the Shelter in Place order and the Archdiocese, we can receive items only on Mondays from 9AM-Noon at the side door of the rectory (parking lot side).

Thank you to almost two-thirds of regular contributing parish households who contribute to the parish through Electronic Funds Transfer, and to those who have been contributing through the mail or by dropping your contribution through the mail slot. If you do not yet contribute electronically, please do what you can to support the parish financially during this time. You still can mail a check to the parish office (124 N Spring Ave, La Grange 60525) or drop an envelope through the rectory mail slot at any time.

To sign up for EFT on a short or long-term basis

- For **Sunday giving**, text “**SUNDAY**” to 708-340-6630 and follow the instructions.

Or go directly to

<https://www.givecentral.org/location/218/category/167/event/7458>

The Archdiocese announced Thursday that there will be **no public Holy Week services, including Easter Sunday**. Our parish liturgy planners and ministers are discussing what we will do at St. Francis Xavier to connect our parish community to these liturgies at the heart of our faith and liturgical year. The governor's order and future events may limit what we can do. Stay tuned for more information. The Archdiocese does not know when churches will reopen for public worship.

UNITED IN PRAYER

Cardinal Cupich today called for common prayer five times a day to unite us in prayer while we are isolated physically. We can offer our support to those affected by the pandemic and let them know that they are not alone. Prayer times will begin daily at 9AM and continue every three hours, with the last prayer at 9PM. Each of the five prayer times is dedicated to a specific group particularly impacted by the pandemic, as listed below.

9AM - Prayer for those infected with the virus and all who are ill

Lord, place your healing hand on those who suffer illness. Bring them to full health and ease their anxious hearts. May our prayer and the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary encourage them that they are not alone. We ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN

12 Noon - Prayer for health care workers and those attending to the sick

Lord, we are ennobled by those who put their lives at risk in caring for the sick. Keep them safe and embolden them when they are weary. We ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN

3PM - Prayer for first responders and essential workers

Lord, we pray for those who run to danger to keep us safe and those who serve the common good. Embrace them with your mantle of protection and comfort the fears of their families. We ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN

6PM - Prayer for people of every nation and their leaders

Lord, the pandemic opens our eyes to see each other as brothers and sisters in one human family. We pray for people of every nation and their leaders, asking that they be inspired to seek the good of all and quell the voices of division. We ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

9PM - Prayer for those who have died today

Lord, we grieve the passing of our sisters and brothers who have died this day. We commend them to your tender mercy, confident that nothing, not even death, will separate us from your love. We ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.