



Saint James

CATHOLIC CHURCH

St. James Roman Catholic Church,
a diverse community rooted in vibrant
Eucharistic Liturgy, serves those in need
in partnership with others.



*Saint James Church is
staffed by the priests
and brothers of the
Missionary Servants of
the Most Holy Trinity*



SUNDAY MASS

9:30 a.m.
(On-line)

DAILY MASS

Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m.
(On-line)

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Sunday
Closed until further
notice

LOCATION

2907 South Wabash
Chicago, IL 60616

CONTACT

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MAY 24, 2020

ON THE WAY.....



May the grace and peace of the Holy Spirit be with us forever.

We are now in the tenth week of lock-down due to the corona virus. At least several more weeks lie ahead of us. Even when restrictions are eased things will only open up gradually. The Archdiocese is working on plans now which will include an incremental increase in our ability to engage one another. This is necessary to keep each other safe, particularly the most vulnerable portions of the population. One surprising statistic, based on early data, the COVID-19 is impacting African Americans at a disproportionate rate. Black people make up nearly 50% of cases and roughly 60% of deaths in Chicago – both much higher rates than their percentage of the overall population. The impact in the Hispanic community is similarly disproportionate. The response to this disease was supposed to be “all hands on deck.” Unfortunately, coronavirus isn’t an equalizer but a magnifier of inequality.

Scientists are working to understand why the disease has been so devastating to communities of color. Some reasons come readily to mind: many work in the service industry and are unable to work from home so they must go out into the public. Many must use public transportation to get to work and hence are exposed those who might be carrying the virus. Many do not have health care and have untreated conditions that make the susceptible to the virus. Many live in areas which have poor air quality creating breathing issues even before the presence of the virus. In other words, the inequality in society has a direct impact on the inequality in the effect of the virus on the population.

One ironic side note: Fr. Gustavo, who many of you will remember, reported that a few months ago the Federal officials were rounding up the immigrant workers in Mississippi from their places of employment and seeking to deport them. Since the pandemic, these workers – most of whom are in the food industry, farms, chicken producers, meat packing houses, etc. – have been considered “essential workers.” They were issued letters from the government to prevent their detention if stopped by immigration officials. From pariahs to essential in weeks.

Since God uses everything perhaps we can draw from the reality of the disparate impact of the virus the hope that we as a nation will confront the inequalities in our society head on. When segments of the population – most often people of color -- are not afforded the same opportunities of employment, housing, education, health care, food resources, etc. the impact is far reaching. It is not simply that some people drive Chevys and some drive Cadillacs. Rather, the virus has exposed the ugly truth that income inequality is, quite literally, a matter of life and death.

As the coronavirus becomes more under control, the Catholic Church in general and St. James in particular need to think how we might play a role in confronting inequality. Naming the inherent racism of American society is a good start. But more than that, we as a community must not simply say “it is what it is” but instead work with all people of good will to make it what it should be.

In the Most Holy Trinity,
Fr. John Edmunds, S.T



THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

Sun 05/24	The Ascension of the Lord 7th Sunday of Easter	
	9:30 a.m.	Mass (On-line) https://zoom.us/j/622647147
Mon 05/25	7:30 a.m.	Mass (On-line) Meeting ID: 844 260 686 Password: SJDAILY † <i>William Thiel - requested by Carole Thiel</i>
Tues 05/26	7:30 a.m.	Mass (On-line) Meeting ID: 844 260 686 Password: SJDAILY
Wed 05/27	7:30 a.m.	Mass (On-line) Meeting ID: 844 260 686 Password: SJDAILY † <i>Sr. Barbara Rastatter - requested by Judith Schartz</i>
Thur 05/28	7:30 a.m.	Mass (On-line) Meeting ID: 844 260 686 Password: SJDAILY † <i>Debra Barker - requested by Shirley Barker</i>
Fri 05/29	7:30 a.m.	Mass (On-line) Meeting ID: 844 260 686 Password: SJDAILY † <i>Daniel Gockel - requested by Elaine Gockel</i>
Sun 05/31	Pentecost Sunday	
	9:30 a.m.	Mass (On-line) https://zoom.us/j/622647147 † <i>Colin McKenna - requested by Etta McKenna</i>



Here for Each Other

A chance to connect with others,
to learn and share practical ways
to overcome isolation,
to deal with change,
and to promote health

Wednesdays
1:00PM

See calendar for link

Fill out this form if you want to join us on
Wednesdays:

<https://forms.gle/J5jGyEPvGJP1GxaZ6>



Dear Friends in Christ,

These fifty days of Easter, leading to Pentecost, are marked by unprecedented suffering, as humanity has fallen victim to a perilous contagion. In addition to the threats to our physical wellbeing, we are suffering spiritually as the Covid-19 pandemic has required restrictions of our worship and active participation in the sacramental life of the Church. Surely, there have been moments in history when governments and rulers have persecuted Christians and banned their public worship. This is not one of them. Rather, the present restrictions come in response to an extreme medical emergency as local, state and federal authorities – specifically public health officials – legitimately fulfil their responsibilities to safeguard human life and the common good. They have based their reasonable guidance on careful consideration of empirical data and the best available disease-mitigation practices as they seek to contain the pandemic's rampage through our communities.

While everyone must exercise good citizenship in observing these restrictions, I call on the Catholic faithful, as advocates for justice and charity, to comply with these regulations. From the first pages of Scripture we learn that we indeed are "our brother's keeper," a truth that must inspire us as we are called to sacrifice. We should also be motivated to cooperate with public safety norms, given our reverence for life and human dignity. This is, at its heart, a moment to proclaim the breadth and depth of what it means to be pro-life, particularly as this virus preys on the most vulnerable in our midst.

The good news is that a plan for a gradual reopening of our churches has now taken shape, as I note below. However, since our movements will be restricted as that plan unfolds in different phases, your pastors and bishops will continue for the present time to offer Mass in private each day and to livestream and broadcast Masses from our parishes and the archdiocese. I am particularly grateful to ABC-TV, Univision and Polvision in Chicago for giving us airtime every Sunday. These celebrations surely are not the same as gathering in our churches for Mass, but I know from hearing from many parishioners that they provide a great deal of solace and support in this time of uncertainty.

We must be honest. We expect this situation to continue for some weeks, and any plan for reopening our Churches for public worship must include every precaution to ensure public Cardinal Cupich letter on Plan for re-opening May 13, 2020 Page Two gatherings do not create a second wave of contagion, thus squandering the gains made through our sacrifice in these days.

With those realities in mind, I am heartened to announce that the Catholic Bishops of Illinois have reached an agreement with the Office of the Governor on a multi-phase Plan for reopening our churches for the celebration of the sacraments, private prayer, adoration and Mass. As I share the Plan with you, both by way of an Executive Summary and the full Plan in the attachment, I want to assure you of my prayers for you and your family's personal, material and spiritual wellbeing. I also express my appreciation to the many people on the archdiocesan staff and in the Office of the Governor for the many hours they have given to designing and fine tuning this agreement. Again, I call on all Catholics to seize this moment to exercise faith-filled citizenship in a way that reflects our deep regard for life, our calling as disciples of Jesus and our love of country.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Archbishop of Chicago





St. James has a
google form for
submitting prayer
requests:

<https://forms.gle/ZgbVkgarRRgDmJR6A>

In Our
Prayers



Our Home Bound:

Judy Archer
Margie Bass
Altee Clark
Edwina Cook
Paul Freeman
Juanita James
James Kennard

Barbara Southhall
Dina Williams

Our Sick
Victoria Allen
Aayliah Cooper

Patsy Cunningham
Marvelean Doss
Nancy McCarthy
Barbara Radizwon
Sandra Reynolds
Donald Rogers
Kimberly Starr