

# St. Landry Catholic Church

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March 24, 2020

Brothers and Sisters of St. Landry,

We all know that this particular season of Lent has been a serious challenge. Everything about the pandemic has severely disrupted our normal way of life and forced us to discover new ways of relating to one another that are meant for our protection and safety yet surface new challenges. The real challenge as people of faith is to trust in the presence of Jesus during this dark moment of our journey together. We are apart yet we still journey together. We are divided and isolated, but we are still bound together in the communion of saints. So, we pray for each other from afar and remember there is no distance from the heart of God. He draws our prayers together even though we cannot physically be near one another. He makes us one even though this dreadful virus separates us.

In this fourth week of Lent we remind each other to focus our vision on the One who heals the blind and sets captives free. Our hearts yearn for a reunion with the whole Body of Christ. Until then, we pray for each other, we pray for all those out in the field tending to the victims of the virus, we pray for those who are suffering in any way. We remember each other before the Father, trusting that His Incarnate Son walks with us in this dark part of our journey together, enfolding us in His Spirit of mercy and peace.

As of today, March 24, 2020, we have been instructed to close the church parish office until April 13. Unfortunately, that means the chapel in Valentin Hall will no longer be available for visitation. If you wish to schedule mass intentions, you may do so from our website or by mail. We will check the mail each and every day.

We have been able to establish on-line giving through Our Sunday Visitor's program. If you wish to share your donation simply go to <https://www.osvhub.com/st-landry-church/funds> and follow the instructions. Or from our parish website click on the 'on-line giving' link. If you wish to drop off any communication for the office, please use the mail slot at the entrance of Valentin Hall. We really appreciate those who have been able to drop off their envelopes or mail them in. Thank you for your consideration and generosity.

Deacon Joubert was able to live-stream Sunday mass this past weekend at 2:00 on Facebook. Beginning this Sunday, he will live-stream the mass at 10:00am. He has also started putting recordings of the rosary and Stations of the Cross on the page, and we hope to broadcast them soon on the website as well. The daily private mass I celebrate will now also be at 10:00am. Please pray with us at home during this time.

We are so blessed as a community to have such a magnificent church building, that has survived through so much over so many years. But its beauty and majesty pale in comparison to you as the people of God, the living church. This great edifice on 1020 North Main Street in Opelousas misses your physical presence and continues to lift up your prayers to the heavens.

In love and hope,

Msgr. Russell J. Harrington, Pastor