

St. Landry Catholic Church

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April 21, 2020

Dear Parishioners of St. Landry Catholic Church,

We have received many comments, letters, cards and phone calls from so many of you. It is always a sign of your graciousness and fidelity that you are so generous with your encouragement and cooperation. We appreciate your continued support. It impresses me to see how you can be so kind during these times that now test our patience and fortitude. I want to also mention how generous you have been with your financial support. The online giving has been very successful, and many continue to mail in contributions or drop them off at the office. It is a bit difficult to provide a total each week as we usually do in the bulletin because the donations come at different intervals throughout the day and week. We deposited the last set of collections for the weekend of March 14-15 (our last weekend in the church) as \$8,700.00. Since that weekend deposit our deposits have totaled \$35,242.80. At this time, we have not had to transfer funds from our savings, so we are immensely grateful to you for your generosity.

We were encouraged by the Diocese of Lafayette to apply for an SBA loan. We were eligible to apply for a little over \$51,000.00 to go towards two months of payroll and assistance with utilities. As you are well aware, the initial funds provided by the federal government have run low, but we are waiting to see if further funds will become available.

We appreciate the fact that so many of you celebrate mass with us, especially on Sundays when you tune in on Facebook or our website at 10:00am. Obviously it's not the same as we are accustomed to and have grown to love, but we are reminded this is a temporary response to a difficult reality. We register over 1000 people watching or tuning in. This unity in prayer, no matter how strange or strained, is still a powerful movement of grace. We are grateful for having the opportunity to do even this limited and reduced celebration of the sacrament.

It is hard to visualize what it will look like for us in the future, especially the transition to a time when we can be together once more. This is still a call for patience and creative ways to live and thrive as the community of the faithful.

On that road to Emmaus as we walk with those two disciples, we ask for the gift to recognize the risen Lord in our midst. He reveals Himself to us in the Sacred Word of the Scriptures and in the breaking of the bread. He reveals to us the risen brother who walks with us throughout our journey of faith, no matter where it leads us. It may lead us to the terrible isolation in which we now find ourselves, to the darkest corners of the temple, the brightest halls of the synagogue, the soul-cleansing waters of the Jordan, the fishing boats of Galilee, the hills of Calvary or the wonders of the garden. As He explains to us His story, we listen. We listen with hearts set afire with love. We listen with hearts yearning for the living God to write His word upon our very souls. We do this together in our aloneness as the community of the faithful, the community of the people of the Living God.

Our moments together are drawing closer, but we remain vigilant. Let us stay safe. Let us continue to pray for one another, to lift up each other's name before the wondrous Father whose very breath fashions and guides us. We pray the Father empowers us with His Spirit to recognize the Son in the Sacred Scriptures and the breaking of the Bread.

In love and hope,

Msgr. Russell J. Harrington, Pastor