

St. Landry Catholic Church

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My Dearest Sisters and Brothers of St. Landry Catholic Church:

We find ourselves in difficult times. To not be able to participate in the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy strikes at the heart of what it means to be Catholic. To not be able to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ steals from us a vital part of what it means to be a disciple of the Lord. We cannot, however, just curse the darkness, but challenge ourselves to face toward the light. We challenge each other to turn to prayer throughout these difficult times as we try to be responsible citizens and compassionate human persons.

As your pastor, I feel it is necessary to communicate with you somehow during this dark moment of our journey together. I will try to communicate with you weekly through these letters, but also encourage you to visit our website (st.landrycatholicchurch.com) and face book (St. Landry Catholic Church). Presently, there are a few items I want to bring to your attention.

Every evening at 5:30pm from Sunday to Saturday I will celebrate a private mass. I would ask you to pause in your day to join in prayer as a faithful member of St. Landry Church. You will not be able to receive communion, but I would encourage you to participate in a spiritual communion with everyone praying together at this time each and every day. Know that I will especially be praying for you and your families at these private masses. We can pray together as a Catholic family each day at this time. If you wish to pray with the readings of the day or a rosary or some other form of prayer, please do so. As long as you realize we are all praying together as the communion of the faithful. Mass intentions will become group intentions during this time, so I can still honor your intention requests.

It is necessary to discontinue bringing communion to the shut-ins to protect not only our Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, but also our most vulnerable parishioners at home. This ministry will not begin again until this time of crisis is considered over.

Unfortunately, my personal health history puts me at particular risk, so I cannot be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession). Please try to make arrangements at Catholic churches where this is still available. This is not an easy decision on my part, so please accept my sincerest apologies at not being able to celebrate this sacrament with you.

The actual church building will remain closed until further notice. The chapel in Valentin Hall will be available for visitation during the day on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:00am to 3:00pm. Let me be quite clear; at no time is there to be more than ten people in the chapel at one time and visitors should sit at least two chairs between each other. Any additional business in Valentin Hall should take place during regular office hours. There is to be no one in the hall after work hours. It is important for us to be in compliance with the directives not only for legal reasons, but for the safety and protection of one another.

As you are well aware, the church parish is totally reliant upon your financial stewardship. I hate having to include this in this letter, but we cannot survive without your generosity. Please consider mailing in your regular contributions or dropping them by the office during office hours (M-Th, 8:30-4:00) in Valentin Hall.

You are a blessed and faith-filled people. As a People of God, we have survived persecutions of every kind. From the very beginning when Jesus handed over the keys to the kingdom to St. Peter we knew that we would face difficulties that appeared to be insurmountable. We would face martyrdom, rejection, division, hate, violence and a total disrespect for life. We would face abuse, wars and insurrections. But we are a faith-filled people. We survive. We thrive. We are the people created in the image of a wondrous God who does not abandon us but walks with us in the shadow of death and lifts our faces to the sun.

I hope you know how much I love you and pray for you. It is so important that we pray for one another at this time. We pray to be kept safe. We pray not to give in to despair. We pray to lift each other up to see the face of God.

Yours in Him,

Msgr. Russell J. Harrington, Pastor