

Pastor's Corner



My Brothers and Sisters:

Happy Octave of Easter! Palm Sunday through Holy Saturday we call "Holy Week." And the first week of the Easter Season is the "Octave of Easter." "Octave," or "Eight," refers to these eight days from Sunday to Sunday. In the Church – great Solemnities are marked that they are even too great for one day. This past Sunday-to-Sunday is one great day. Friday was not a penitential day this week. Baptismal Fonts are often constructed in an octagonal shape, remembering that God started creation on the First Day, and Christ rose from the dead on the First Day of the Week – ushering in the New Creation and New Life. On top of that, Easter is a season that goes for 50 days. And there's more - we remember that the First Day of the Week – "Sunday" in English - is in many languages called "The Lord's" Day.

Please know of the continued prayers of the staff and myself for all of you and your health and security.

I thank all of you who have communicated that you are missing Mass and the faces of everyone you know and love. I miss you also, and look forward to seeing all of you again.

If you check the website at www.saintlawrence.net you can see links to some of the Masses I've said recently, as well as Masses as we begin to live-stream them. We now have our own YouTube channel! Please search for Saint Lawrence Catholic Church - Indianapolis and subscribe to our channel.

As a faithful Catholic community, first and foremost, we provide for the spiritual and pastoral needs of the faithful. This includes the holiness, health and safety of our parishioners. We are praying for all who have been impacted by the current health crisis. The spread of COVID-19 has truly impacted our parish, our community and our country. We will continue to communicate with you as often as possible and ask that you not give in to fear during these times of turmoil.

We must continue to pray and support those most vulnerable – the poor, those with less stable employment, and parents who need to work and are unable to find childcare. In a special way, we want to support the elderly, sick and those who are homebound who may feel isolated and lonely. In the spirit of Easter, I ask all of us to embrace the works of mercy with zeal and to practice a spirit of gratitude and generosity to others, by using our time to pray, giving to our parish offertory, and continuing our donations to the "Making All Things New" Capital Campaign and the United Catholic Appeal. I truly believe that with prayer, a commitment to community and a focus on the Christ, we will survive and grow in this time of pandemic.

Regarding parish offertory, our budgeted weekly goal for Sundays is over \$16,000. Of that, electronic giving through Faith Direct is \$3,600. That means over \$12,000/week is needed to support our ministries, pay our staff, and pay our bills. These are lean times for many of you as work is less available. We realize that meeting our obligations for the next 60 days will be difficult. The last few weeks, contributions have been low:

\$4,300 per week through gifts dropped off at the parish office or mailed in;
Online contributions are remaining stable around \$3,600.

We are committed to continuing the good work of the Church and to provide a sense of calmness through our faith in Christ. I thank each of you for the many ways you support our mission, and ask that you please continue to financially support the work of our Church. Our parish is dependent upon your weekly financial gifts to continue its ministries in this critical time of crisis. Please consider transitioning to online giving using this link: www.faithdirect.net or mail your weekly offertory donations to the parish.

Join me in prayer for the repose of those who have died, for the recovery of those who are sick, for the strength of healthcare workers and caregivers, and for an end to this health crisis. Please be assured of my prayers for all of you, our parishioners, and know that we are here for you.

In Prayer,

In Christ Our Lord,

Handwritten signature of Fr. Tom