

Dear Parishioners of the Hamilton Pastoral Region:

What an extraordinary time we are living in! As the Covid 19 virus unfolds in real time, all of us are naturally anxious about the threats to our health: physical, financial, emotional, and most importantly, our spiritual health. Father Richmond and I want to be with you during it all, even though we might not be able to be with you in person. You are our spiritual children and we care deeply about each of you.

As you know, large gatherings, including all public Masses, have been suspended, as recommended by both State and Federal health agencies. To help us keep connected as a parish family, we will livestream the Liturgy of the Word with spiritual Communion on Sunday mornings at 10 am. See the next page for daily Mass and devotionals. You will be able to find it through any webpage within the pastoral region. We will make our Sunday homilies available online in some form, either in written texts or as YouTube recordings. We will also use St. Julie's Facebook page to share information during the interim when public Masses are not celebrated.

Regarding the sacraments: as of now, I will be keeping the regular Confession times. You can also contact the parish office to request a time when fewer penitents will be in church. Remember "social distancing" by sitting an arm's length or more away from others. Call the parish office for Funerals and Anointing of the Sick. Pray for our Elect, who at this time do not know when they will receive the Sacraments of Initiation.

Personal prayer, especially before Jesus in the tabernacle, can do much to calm us at this time. Remember, each of you belongs to the whole Pastoral Region, so please feel welcome at all three churches. They will be open:

- St. Joseph: Friday 5 pm – 9 pm. Sunday 9:30 am – 1 pm.
- St. Julie Billiart: M-F 8 am – 3 pm. Sat-Sun 9 am – 3:30 pm
- St. Peter in Chains: main church is open all day

Our hearts especially go out to those who live alone or who live in nursing homes so Father Richmond and I intend to make some of the contacts with our elderly parishioners ourselves. We encourage you to practice the Works of Mercy at this time, too. First, protect yourself and keep from contaminating others by washing your hands frequently; staying home if you feel sick; and keeping physical distance. Second, put our parish directory to good use and call and check on fellow parishioners. Many elderly and at-risk individuals would certainly value your effort. Third, please consider giving blood. The need will remain, and healthy donors will become more difficult to find as time goes on. Fourth, understand it is natural for tension to increase when siblings, parents, and kids are spending more time together. Remember love is patient; love is kind. Try to consider the small things – in action or in attitude – that will make it more enjoyable to be together.

Our schools are continuing instruction at home through use of chrome books and instructional packets – and the ingenuity of our wonderful teachers. Our 180 PREP students also have resources available to them. Please pick up those resources on the back porch of St. Julie's parish office.

The Church has an important role to play in all the seasons of our lives, especially in times of need. We face the present situation with faith and trust. God sustains us and holds us in his hand. I have asked for St. Joseph to be a special patron for the Hamilton community at this time. I have included a prayer to St. Joseph on the back (second page) of this letter.

In Christ,

Fr. Rob

Prayer to St. Joseph:

Remember, O Saint Joseph, most pure spouse of Mary, ever Virgin, and my loving protector, that no one ever had recourse to your protection or asked for your aid without obtaining relief. Confiding, therefore, in your goodness, I come before you and humbly implore you in this time of pandemic. Despise not my petitions, foster-father of the Redeemer, but graciously receive them. Amen.

Daily Devotions:

Livestream Masses from the cathedral – Sundays (11am) and weekdays (8am).

www.catholiccincinnati.org

www.facebook.com/stjulieparish St. Julie's Facebook Page

<https://www.ewtn.com/> Eternal Word Television Network. Includes Mass, Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet along with other programming.

<https://sacredheartradio.com/> Sacred Heart Radio. Catholic Radio station for Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky featuring Mass, Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet along with other programming.

When Mary appeared at Fatima she asked families to pray the Rosary daily.