

ST. MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

A PARISH OF THE HOLY SAINTS AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY



The Rectory
June 7, 2020
Trinity Sunday
in tempore universalis contagii
In Time of Pandemic

Dear Parishioners of St. Mary Help of Christians,

Thank you for the generous donations of sanitizing wipes in response to my request in last weekend's bulletin.

Starting this week, as we continue to return to the "new normal" of parochial life in Time of Pandemic, as well as in preparation for the more robust realization of the Holy Saints Area Catholic Community, I am pleased to announce something that has so far served as an anchor to my spiritual life and, I hope, will serve as an anchor to yours: I will resume the public celebration of Evening Prayer and offering Sacrament of Reconciliation from 6 to 7 PM on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. As these weekday opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation were, in my experience over this past year, better utilized than the opportunity on Saturday, I will not be resuming the 4 to 4:30 time on Saturdays.

I say this serves as an anchor because it is, in my experience, a helpful fixed activity in my otherwise chaotic week. While it might be easier to keep constantly busy by reviewing financial reports, reading contracts, writing policies, revising programs, and going to meetings, my vocation as a pastor is to pray for the People of God in the parish (or parishes) I shepherd, that you all might grow closer to Jesus day-by-day and, one day, enter into eternal life with Him. That's really it. Aside from daily offering Holy Mass, the Liturgy of the Hours, of which Evening Prayer is a part, is the way this is concretely accomplished.

Because of concerns over the transmission of COVID19, I cannot provide the booklets for Evening Prayer as I have in the past. Thus, if you wish to participate in Evening Prayer, you must bring your own resources, either a volume of the Liturgy of the Hours, such as *Christian Prayer* or *Shorter Christian Prayer*, or one of the smartphone apps such as iBreviary or Divine Office, both of which are helpfully pictured below.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Matthew Crane

Fr. Matthew Crane



iBreviary



Divine Office