As I mentioned last week, our parish leadership has approved The Basilica’s COVID-19 Preparedness Plan. This plan has been posted to our website if you would like to read it. This plan will continue to be reviewed and adjusted as new information becomes available as the pandemic evolves.

I am grateful to Terri Ashmore, our Managing Director, our Staff Directors, Tom Paul and Kathy Noecker our Parish Trustees, and Dr. Deirdre Palmer, The Basilica Landmark’s representative to our Parish Council, for the time and effort they put into this document. Their work is a blessing for our parish.

Additionally, our parish leadership approved a proposal to gradually reopen The Basilica for public worship. When we reopen The Basilica for public worship, however, we will continue to livestream our various liturgies and services. The equipment we needed to livestream has arrived and will be installed within the next week or so. Once the equipment is installed, our staff will be trained to operate it.

Once this has happened, we will start to open The Basilica for daily Mass at Noon. We anticipate this will take place in mid-July. Within the next couple of weeks, I will give a progress report to our parish leadership in regard to how this is working.

Hopefully at that time, we can determine a timeline for reopening The Basilica on a limited basis for weekend Masses. Once we have reopened The Basilica for Sunday Mass, on one Sunday a month we will also celebrate the sacrament of baptism for infants, and the Sacrament of Confirmation for those adults who were a part of our R.C.I.A. program this past year. Later this summer we will also discuss how to celebrate First Communion and Confirmation with our elementary and high school students.

I realize these decisions may disappoint some, but in an abundance of caution and with a concern for the common good, as your pastor, I am convinced that at this time, this is the best way to proceed.

Rev. John M. Bauer
Pastor, The Basilica of Saint Mary
WE ARE ALL BELOVED CHILDREN OF GOD

My mother was an equal opportunity disciplinarian. By this I mean that my mother dealt out discipline fairly, swiftly, and judiciously. One time when I was growing up, my mother took me and my older brother with her to run some errands. At one point during our errand running my older brother—probably more out of boredom than malice—gave me a shove. I responded by calling him a name. My mother responded by telling my older brother that if he pushed me again a spanking awaited him when we got home. She responded to me by telling me never to call someone a name, and that if I continued this practice, I could anticipate that my mouth would be washed out with a bar of soap. She then told both of us that there would be no dessert for either of us that night. With my mother discipline was swift, sure, and just. I learned a valuable lesson that day many years ago. You don’t call people names.

This memory came back to me recently as I was thinking about all that has gone on and continues to go on in our city with the death of George Floyd, as well as all that is going on in our country and our world with COVID-19. It is clear that given the current situation, “stressful” doesn’t begin to describe the upheaval in our community and our world, as well as the turmoil in our individual lives at this time. Unfortunately, contributing to this uproar and turmoil are some—particularly some in leadership positions who should know better—who are resorting to finger pointing and name calling.

We need to be honest and clear. Name calling and finger pointing are never appropriate. And we need to call each other—and especially our leaders—to accountibility when we/they do this. In a speech in October of 2017 former President George W. Bush alluded to this issue when he said: “We have seen our discourse degraded by casual cruelty. At times, it can seem like the forces pulling us apart are stronger than the forces binding us together. Argument turns too easily into animosity. Disagreement escalates into dehumanization. Too often, we judge other groups by their worst examples while judging ourselves by our best intentions—forgetting the image of God we should see in each other.”

We are all created in God’s image and likeness. We are all beloved sons and daughters of God. When we fail to remember this, when we point fingers and call names, we are failing to see the image of God in one another. I just wish my mother were alive to give those who do this a good talking to, and threaten to wash out their mouths with soap if they continue this practice. Alternatively, though, perhaps if God sent us all to bed without dessert for a few nights, perhaps we might remember and take seriously the most basic fact of our existence: we are all beloved children of God.

FOR THE COMMON GOOD AND WELFARE OF OUR COMMUNITY

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES RELATED TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC:

It’s inspiring in these challenging times to help our community and neighbors in need. We encourage people to shelter in place, but have referred volunteers who want to help to Catholic Charities, as they have systems in place to be of immediate assistance and can use volunteers. We currently do not have volunteer opportunities at The Basilica and have suspended our St. Vincent de Paul outreach ministries until further notice.

Visit mary.org/volunteer for more information.

Pope Francis: Prayer to Mary, Mother of the Church and Mother of our faith

Mother, help our faith! Open our ears to hear God’s word and to recognize his voice and call. Awaken in us a desire to follow in his footsteps, to go forth from our own land and to receive his promise. Help us to be touched by his love, that we may touch him in faith.

Help us to entrust ourselves fully to him and to believe in his love, especially at times of trial, beneath the shadow of the cross, when our faith is called to mature. Sow in our faith the joy of the Risen One. Remind us that those who believe are never alone.

Teach us to see all things with the eyes of Jesus, that he may be light for our path. And may this light of faith always increase in us, until the dawn of that undying day which is Christ himself, your Son, our Lord!
LITURGY & SACRED ARTS

LIVESTREAM: MASS
Weekday Noon Mass: Monday-Friday
Live on Facebook at facebook.com/BasilicaMpls

Sunday 9:30am Mass
Live on mary.org and Facebook at facebook.com/BasilicaMpls

Mass Recording Archive
mary.org/massrecordings

LIVESTREAM: MASS JULY 4TH
SATURDAY, JULY 4, 10:30AM
Livestream at mary.org or Facebook live at facebook.com/BasilicaMpls.

LIVESTREAM: SUNDAY PRAYER FOR SOLACE AND PEACE
SUNDAY, JULY 5, 5:30PM
Livestream at mary.org or Facebook live at facebook.com/BasilicaMpls.

LIVESTREAM: TAIZÉ PRAYER
TUESDAY, JULY 19, 5:30PM
This service is characterized by mantra-like singing of simple, beautiful songs, following the Taizé community tradition of communal prayer focused on reconciliation and healing. Live on Facebook facebook.com/BasilicaMpls or mary.org.

DOMESTIC CHURCH RESOURCE 2020
“God’s first language is silence. Everything else is a translation. Faith is opening and surrendering to God. The spiritual journey does not require going anywhere because God is already with us and in us.” - Fr. Thomas Keating

Our Basilica staff has collaborated on this resource which is intended to assist you in your discovery of the domestic church. We realize that many of us already feel overwhelmed by the demands and limitations of staying at home and social distancing. We don’t want to add to the stress. These are just some suggestions and offerings should you want and need them.

Also, we are not only offering things for you to do, we also invite you to allow us to assist you through this journey with COVID-19.

Full Resource Packet
mary.org/domesticchurch

- Prayer
- Mental Health and Well Being
- Basilica Resources and Assistance
- General Mental Health Resources
- Resources for Couples
- Learning Resources for Home
CHRISTIAN LIFE

BECOMING HUMAN: DISMANTLING RACISM

During the season of Lent 2020, the University of St. Thomas and The Basilica of Saint Mary collaborated on an educational series focused on dismantling racism called Becoming Human. Now available through an online portal, this six-part series examines the complexities of racism and provides additional tools to help engage in the work of transforming our communities. To access the series, visit mary.org/becominghuman. For more information or to get involved in work of racial reconciliation at The Basilica of Saint Mary, contact Janice at 612.317.3477 or jandersen@mary.org.

EMMAUS MINISTRY

As more and more people find themselves struggling financially, or with their physical or mental well-being during the COVID-19 global pandemic, Emmaus Ministers are here to listen. Fears and anxieties are on the rise and many of us are simply juggling too much. Our volunteers are highly trained, compassionate, and confidential listeners—truly the perfect resource for an imperfect time. Contact Wendy for more information on this free Basilica resource at 612.317.3474 or wcaduff@mary.org.

IMMIGRANT SUPPORT MINISTRY

The Basilica Immigrant Support Ministry (ISM) assists many families who are refugees and asylum seekers. Partnering for a year through the many challenges that arise, the ISM teams work with the families to grow and assimilate to Minnesota. Rooted in our Catholic Faith, we team up with community organizations, fostering long-term relationships, offering financial assistance, and other support. We need your help supporting families in our community. Contact Betsy at eframsey@comcast.net or call Janice at 612.317.3477 to learn more.

MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY

Many of us are feeling depressed or anxious. The Mental Health Ministry invites you to use The Basilica’s Domestic Church Resource that has many ideas and resources for our mental health at mary.org/domesticchurch.

If you find you need more information or guidance, please contact Janet Grove at 612.317.3508 or jgrove@mary.org to talk to a ministry member or to be connected with one of our community partners.

DISABILITY AWARENESS MINISTRY

Our committee is continuing to meet virtually. We have secured Dr. Henry Emmons, author of The Chemistry of Joy, to present here on October 20. Registration information will be out in the early fall.

PRAYERshawls

Our parish community has given away over 1,170 prayer shawls as visible, tangible signs of love and support to those in need. Every person who receives one is prayed for by name each time we gather. If you would like to knit or crochet with us in this ministry, or request a shawl for yourself or a loved one, please contact Wendey in the Caring Ministries Office at 612.317.3474 or wcaduff@mary.org. Our ministers are knitting at home and meeting virtually on Zoom twice each month. Intertwine with us!

ZOOM: PRISONERS OR PATIENTS?

The Task Force is convening on the third Thursday of each month via Zoom to discuss how The Basilica can help men and women leaving prison and jail who have mental health issues that are additional barriers to their release. If you are interested in joining us and discussing how The Basilica can help people coming out of prison, please contact Janet Grove at 612.317.3508 or jgrove@mary.org.

COMMON GOOD

ZOOM: CENTERING PRAYER

FRIDAYS, 10:00-11:00AM, ZOOM

Centering Prayer is a prayer of silence—beyond thoughts, words, and emotions. During these times of trial and upheaval, consider joining with The Basilica community in this sacred prayer. We are reading Centering Prayer and Inner Awakening by Cynthia Bourgeault. Contact Janice at 612.317.3477 or jandersen@mary.org for log-in credentials and more information.

HOMEBOUND COMMUNION MINISTRY

The Basilica assigns a Homebound Communion minister to visit people on a regular basis, to pray with them, and to bring the Body of Christ when someone is unable to get to Mass for various reasons. Will you help? We are looking to build this ministry with willing volunteers. It would involve a three-hour training either late summer or fall, depending on the length of the COVID-19 outbreak. Until a date can be determined, we will gather names of those who are interested in serving. For more information, contact Wendy at 612.317.3474 or wcaduff@mary.org.

EMPLOYMENT MINISTRY

The Basilica of Saint Mary Employment Ministry is still helping during this time. Did you know that working with our employment ministry counts toward looking for work if you are receiving Unemployment Insurance pay? The Basilica’s job coaches are working with people remotely via computer and phone meetings. Please contact Janet Grove if you are interested in working with a coach at 612.317.3508 or jgrove@mary.org.

PRAYER LINE

Prayer is powerful. About 90 people pray each week for the intentions of others on their own time. Names and intentions are emailed out weekly (or mailed through USPS upon request). If you have the gift of praying for the needs of others and want to join the prayer ministry, please contact Wendy at wcaduff@mary.org to be added to the ministry. You can also go to mary.org/prayerrequests or call the reception desk at 612.333.1381 to ask for prayer.
ADULT LEARNING

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (RCIA)

During the Civil Rights movement, Bob Dylan captured the moment with *The Times They Are A-Changin’*. Many of the lines in his song seem very resonant for us today. There is hope that the times are changing, that we are changing. If you feel that you are changing or that something is perhaps pulling or tugging you to discover more about the Catholic faith, RCIA may be right for you. What does it mean to be Catholic? If you would like more information please contact cedwards@mary.org. If the Holy Spirit is calling you, now is the right time.

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

ZOOM: BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS

TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 6:30PM

If you are expecting, or in the process of adopting a child, please attend one of our baptism preparation classes currently online. We offer classes approximately nine times a year for parents who are registered members of The Basilica and plan on having their child baptized here. Godparents are welcome too. For more information, call the Learning office at 612.317.3414. Please register online at mary.org.

REGISTRATION FOR 2020-2021 FAITH FORMATION PROGRAMS

Online registration for Faith Formation classes is open. Please register children early. Those families registering before **July 31** receive a discount of $25 per child. You may make a partial payment and still register your child early. Registering your child now will help us to know how many catechists are needed. Register at mary.org/faithformation.

If you are in need of a scholarship you may register online and choose "bill me". Then, call the Learning office for more information at 612.317.3414.

CATECHISTS FOR 2020-2021

Do you love the Bible and have an interest in sharing your faith with youth? Are you someone who treasures the arts and wants to learn more about masterpieces and share this with our children? The Basilica Children’s and Youth programs will be offering new curriculum next fall. We are looking for open, caring adults, willing to learn and share with our young people. Please consider making a weekly commitment to be a catechist. All VIRTUS requirements required. For more information, contact Christine Moore at cmoore@mary.org.
MAKE A GIFT

MAKE A GIFT FOR VIRTUAL MINISTRIES
As we continue to connect virtually during the COVID-19 pandemic, we ask for your help to fund our online initiatives, web-based ministries, livestreamed Masses and other virtual operations. Over the last several months, The Basilica has stayed connected to our parish through these initiatives. If you would like to support us as we navigate the coming months, please make a gift at mary.org/give.

THE BASILICA LANDMARK
ANNUAL FUND
This year, The Basilica Landmark will fund the critical yearly maintenance on the church façade. The maintenance of our historic buildings cannot continue without your help, particularly given the cancelations of our Basilica Block Party and Landmark Spark fundraisers due to COVID-19. During this unprecedented time, it is our hope that you are inspired to help preserve, restore, and advance The Basilica Landmark for generations to come. Make a gift to the Annual Fund at thebasilicalandmark.org/give.

If you would like to learn more about employer match/giving opportunities, please contact Monica Stuart at mstuart@mary.org or 612.317.3429.

LIGHT A PRAYER CANDLE
Each Sunday, members of The Basilica staff will light candles on behalf of parishioners and pray for the intentions of our community during the singing of the Marian antiphon at the end of the Mass. If you would like to have your intentions offered in chapels dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, please visit mary.org/candles. As your financial circumstances allow, please consider supporting this ministry with a donation.

CONTACT US
If you would like to make a gift by phone, please contact Stephanie Bielmas at 612.317.3472.

As you continue to send mail to The Basilica, please ensure that you’re sending to our updated mailing address. We no longer have our previous P.O. Box address.

THE BASILICA OF SAINT MARY
88 North 17th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55403

THE BASILICA LANDMARK
88 North 17th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55403

Basilica Events, LLC
88 North 17th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55403

DEVELOPMENT

FINANCIAL GIFTS BY JUNE 30
The Basilica’s fiscal year ends on June 30. If you have a Basilica Fund recurring gift, any payments you can make towards your 2020 gift balance by June 30 are most appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie at 612.317.3472 or sbielmas@mary.org.

THE BASILICA FUND
We are profoundly grateful for the outpouring of support that The Basilica of Saint Mary has received in response to our request to help sustain our operations and empower our mission. We ask for your continued financial support to offset the loss of donations that are usually collected during our regular Mass schedule. If you have not done so and would like to help, please consider making a gift to The Basilica Fund at mary.org/give.

FUND-A-NEED
The 2020 Fund-A-Need project is focused on the restoration of the exterior façade of the church, and includes tuck-pointing and repairing gaps in the stone, copper, and glass. For more information or to make a donation, please visit thebasilicalandmark.org/FAN.