



St. Joseph Parish
of Day County
22 St. Joseph St.
Grenville, SD
57239



A.M.D.G.
April 2, 2020

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Greetings in Christ My Dear Parishioners,

I am writing to all of you under COVID-19 pandemic circumstances which have life and death implications, testing us in ways that can have serious, eternal life and death consequences. As so, I am concerned about how this will impact you and your family's health, well-being, and holiness of life. As your spiritual father, I am reaching out to offer, help, hope and healing that can only come from God your Father. Also, I am passing on pertinent information in this letter to parishioners just in time for Holy Week. Thus far, I have not sent out a letter to all of you, so this one has much information.

How has Lent been going for you? We will never forget the need for prayer and almsgiving and the fasting due to social distancing from the Eucharist, Mass, and those we love that has been thrust upon us this Lent. We are experiencing many human and spiritual forms of suffering in our nation and world due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It definitely will get far worse even with everyone doing their part out of love for their neighbor and for themselves. I suggest you accept the things you cannot change and offer it up. I preach this periodically so that your suffering does not go to spiritual waste. (See the new April 2020 edition of the Bishop's Bulletin to make sense out of suffering.) I suggest the simple prayer that I came up with for myself, **"I offer my suffering for my sins and for ___ in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."** You may offer it up for an end to this pandemic, for people affected, and for the conversion of people who act like this is just like the flu, or as if it is "business as usual." As your priest, I am putting forth my best effort to keep ramping up ways to be more cautious and train myself to put them into routine practice. This way, it will be more likely that I will be available to serve you as needed. Also, these best practices should help you trust that I am putting forth my best effort to help keep you safe.

I am providing in the attachment a summary of the directives we have from Bishop DeGrood which apply to all of us and include serious matters of obedience to know and to follow until further notice. They have been posted in our church entrances, emailed to parishioners who have provided their email addresses, and posted at sfcatholic.org with more information and resources to come. Bishop DeGrood pleads that we storm heaven with prayers and fasting! (See the attachment for new indulgences during this pandemic.) Please keep yourself informed and have the courage to change the things you can.

As a result of all of this, we still remain open. (Please use the hand sanitizer provided as you come into our churches and offices.) Sacred Heart Church is open for individual visits and prayer as usual 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. (Every other pew is caution taped off.) Come into the south sacristy if you need to turn on a light. After Easter, I will be contacting our Rel. Ed. families about how we might finish out the school year by taking textbooks home, phone, Zoom, or other means. I am available for confessions in the cry rooms with social distancing by appointment and according to

the confession times provided in the attachment. I will have a note on the outside of the church doors for safe confession procedures. Bathrooms are no longer available except for emergencies.

As usual, to best keep updated, text a request to be included on group texts (Fr. Simon for Eden and Elaine K. for Grenville), find us on Facebook @edengrenvilleparishes, call the rectory phone number, or see postings on our website. Please contact me if you cannot take any risks to leave your home with no one to help you run errands. If you are willing and able to run errands for people at risk, then contact me as well.

Please see the attachment for our Holy Week and Easter Week schedule as modified. (Also see Bishop's live streaming schedule at sfcatholic.com.) You can complete your required Easter Duty (confession) anytime, up to and including, Trinity Sunday, June 7th, 2020. You can pick up blessed palms and drop off old palms and religious items for burial in the breeze way between the St. Joseph Parish Rectory and Parish Hall in Grenville or in Eden in the Sacred Heart Church entrance. You can also pick up palms in Dan's Grocery & Gas.

Of course, we have some financial business to attend to. Losing our weekly income from Sunday collections will be a serious issue going forward. If you give regularly, please be sure to maintain it and consider giving extra to help make up for those who may decrease their giving. Also, if you have not been supporting your parish or the local Church through the Bishop's annual Catholic Family Sharing Appeal (C.F.S.A.), please prayerfully and seriously consider doing your part and fulfilling your obligation to support Jesus Christ's mission through His Church. Please see the attachment for remote contribution options explained, including new, convenient ways to give. Also, this attachment (not the online version) includes our first 2020 report for C.F.S.A giving.

The Catholic Community Foundation for Eastern SD, in partnership with the Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls, has established the COVID-19 Relief Fund. See the attachment for more information.

After all of that, we need some good news. I bring you glad tidings of GREAT joy! No abortions are being done as of now at Sioux Falls Planned Parenthood due to the safety of travel for their MN abortionist! It is amazing news! Lives saved because of COVID-19! (Now, how about the safety of innocent, preborn babies?!). Be assured, God brings good through suffering.

I will post this letter on our parishesonline.com website in place of the Palm Sunday bulletin. You can direct people with questions to there or contact me. I welcome requests for information or suggestions for these unprecedented times. **Feel free to call me to visit, pray, receive pastoral counseling, go to confession or otherwise.** You also can send me an email using the address below. (Please use the parish email address for parish business.)

Finally, we will have an unknown, new normal. So, I suggest you pray the Serenity Prayer every day as well as throughout the day, as needed, and live it one day and one moment at a time. (See attachment.) May God's grace and peace be with you and your loved ones in and through these challenging times.

Yours in Christ for Love & Life,

Fr. Brian P. Simon

Email: fbriansimon@sfcatholic.org and Cell Phone: (605) 769-0281

Attachment

Attachment for Fr. Brian Simon's Palm Sunday Letter Dated April 2nd, 2020

April 2020 Holy Week & Divine Mercy Schedule

Apr. 5 – Palm Sunday Mass 8:30 a.m. Facebook Live 10:00 a.m. KBWS 102.9 FM, www.BigStoneRadio.com
Eden Soup and Chili Dinner has been postponed.
Confessions with Fr. Simon only in the cry room
Eden 2:00 p.m. & Grenville 4:00 p.m.

Apr. 7 – Confessions with Fr. Simon only in the cry room Eden 6:00 p.m.

Apr. 8 – Confessions with Fr. Simon only in the cry room Grenville 4:00 – 5:00 p.m., Eden 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Apr. 9 – Thursday of the Lord's Supper
7:00 p.m. Facebook Live

Apr. 10 – Friday of the Passion of the Lord
Confessions with Fr. Simon only in the cry room
3:00 p.m. Eden 7:00 p.m. Grenville

Apr. 12 – Easter Sunday Mass 8:30 a.m. Facebook Live 10:00 a.m. KBWS 102.9 FM, www.BigStoneRadio.com

Apr. 19 – Sunday Mass 8:30 a.m. Facebook Live 10:00 a.m. KBWS 102.9 FM, www.BigStoneRadio.com

LENT REGULATIONS FOR CATHOLICS

Jesus said, "The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast." (See Matthew 9:14-15)

All Fridays through the year, especially during Lent, are penitential days.

Abstinence: All who have reached their 14th birthday are to abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday and on all Fridays of Lent.

Fasting: All those who are 18 or older until their 59th birthday are to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Fasting is one full meal and two lesser meals without eating between meals.

Summary of Directives from Bishop DeGrood

(See postings and sfcatholic.org for more details.)

1. All Catholics in SD are dispensed from the Sunday Mass obligation and all public Masses are suspended until further notice. The commandment to keep the Lord's Day still applies. Preferably, pray with a broadcasted Mass on radio (Real Presence Radio phone app or prerecorded for playback by Fr. Simon on KBWS 102.9 FM Sunday 10:00 a.m.), TV (KELO or EWTN), or online such as sfcatholic.org or by Fr. Simon on Facebook Live @edengrenvilleparishes Sunday 8:30 a.m. and recorded for playback on BigStoneRadio.com Sunday 10:00 a.m.) with a spiritual communion prayer. Otherwise, see other options at sfcatholic.org.
2. The national and state guidelines need to be followed. (See coronavirus.gov and covid.sd.gov (1-800-997-2880)). Bishop requires social distancing with gatherings of ten or less people including weddings and funerals. (The remaining St. Joseph Parish Fish Fries and the Sacred Heart Parish Soup and Chili Dinner have been postponed.)
3. Bishop requires there to be no public gatherings inside or outside churches. The church is to be locked during live-stream Masses.

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.

COVID-19 Relief Fund

The Catholic Community Foundation for Eastern SD, in partnership with the Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls, has established the COVID-19 Relief Fund. It provides financial resources to people in eastern SD who are impacted by the Coronavirus. You can make a cash gift or non-cash gift to this fund by going to ccfesd.org or calling (605) 988-3788. If you or someone you know is in need of assistance, contact me or the Catholic Community Foundation.

The Serenity Prayer

God, grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change,
courage to change the things I can, and
the wisdom to know the difference.

Indulgences (CCC 1471-1473)

The Apostolic Penitentiary, with the approval of the Holy Father, has granted additional opportunities for one to gain a plenary indulgence during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic once per day. This plenary indulgence is to “all the faithful affected by the COVID-19 disease, as well as to health care workers, family members and all those who, for whatever reason, even with prayer, take care of them.” The following requirements are in effect for obtaining the indulgence:

1. Be detached from all sin, even venial, otherwise the indulgence is only partial.
2. Undertake at least one of the following spiritual good works:
 - a. Spiritually unite through the media to the celebration of the Holy Mass;
 - b. Recitation of the Holy Rosary;
 - c. The pious practice of the Way of the Cross or other forms of devotion, or
 - d. Recite the Creed, the Our Father and a pious invocation to the Blessed Virgin;
 - e. Make a visit to the Blessed Sacrament;
 - f. Undertake Eucharistic Adoration, or
 - g. The reading of the Holy Scriptures for at least half an hour;
 - h. Recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.
3. When undertaking any of the good works mentioned above, “implore from Almighty God the cessation of the epidemic, relief for those who are afflicted and eternal salvation of those who have died.”
4. Have the intention to fulfill as soon as it is possible the usual obligations of sacramental confession, Eucharistic Communion, and prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father.

N.B.: You must form the intention to gain the indulgence. (Do this in your Morning Prayer!)

Remote Contribution Options

1. Mail your envelopes on a regular or periodic basis to your respective parish office (PO Box 191 Grenville or PO Box 15 Eden).
2. Set up free bank account to bank account automatic transfers if you bank at the same bank as your respective parish (Dacotah Bank for Grenville and Great Plains Bank for Eden).
3. Online Giving: The Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls has set up free online giving for this time of pandemic for all of the parishes in our diocese. It uses the same system that Catholic Family Sharing Appeal uses. Go to sfcatholic.org “Resources for Home and Parish Page,” select “Consider an Online Donation,” select “Parish Donations,” and then select “Create New Account” if you want your parish to include it as they track your envelope giving to the parish in service to you; otherwise, select “Continue” under the “New Giver” heading.