

St. Vincent de Paul

Catholic Church and Academy News

April/May 2020

Dear Parishioners,

I hope you are well and finding ways to get the work done. In this time of the Conoronavirus upheaval, we have to remember that it's not an excuse to become lazy in our duties, but rather a need to work harder. We have a job to do. Here is an example to illustrate that: if I have an eight foot hole to dig and my backhoe is broken then I have to use a shovel. It's much more difficult, but the work has to get done.

The eight foot hole may not be an essential task, but the religious and educational duties are essential tasks. In a state of isolation these tasks become very difficult. How can one adequately replace the attendance at Mass on Sunday? Every sacrifice from dressing in your Sunday best, to driving the distance, to the very Sacrifice of Christ upon the altar are important. Lest one becomes lazy, it's vital that one keeps that same spirit of sacrifice and discipline in sanctifying the Sunday at home. Dress up in your Sunday best for the works of prayer, instruction and piety even when Stay at Home practice replaces Sunday Mass in the parish Church.

How does one replace the classroom formation of a child in education? It's impossible in most homes. However, you can have your children dress in their school uniform and meet at a regular time in the home for school work.

Video has become a "necessary" tool for these duties. However, I fear that this brings dangers. Video places one in a passive attitude to the work it is intending to support. Video also comes over the same screen that entertainment is delivered. Consequently, we risk losing our respect for what is sacred and respectable. I know of a college professor who, like most, has to teach through video streaming. He sees students "attending" class in bed. This is a disrespect to education!

I encourage you to keep a deep and constant practice of prayer during these days. Prayer will ensure your fidelity and bring good fruits from your labors - otherwise, time is wasted. Be assured of my prayers for you. In the Hearts of Jesus and Mary,

Fr. Michael Goldade

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Parish News

Coronavirus and St. Vincent's

City ordinances since March have limited the number of faithful who can attend Mass and confessions. Pews were taped off insuring proper spacing.

Father Goldade is using a signup program to allow faithful to continue to receive the sacraments while still staying within the limits of the law.



March 22 at one of the six Masses offered for the faithful



Church Cleaning

Thank you to the dedicated Disinfecting Crew who disinfect the church and crypt chapel every day: Laura Collins, Becky Gilligan, Donna Prather, Anne Marie Nienaber, Monica Nienaber, and Victor Tan. And to those who did a one-time general cleaning of the church on Saturday, April 18: Mary Greene, Teresa Lowe, Donna Prather, Rebecca Wohletz, Anne Marie Nienaber, Monica Nienaber, Rebecca Heatwole, Parisa Taheri, and Laura Collins.

Holy Week

Holy Week ceremonies were celebrated as usual despite the empty church, limited to the clergy, servers, and a few faithful. Thank you to Michael Sestak for the pictures of the ceremonies.



Empty church during Holy Week.



Holy Thursday



Good Friday



Easter Vigil



Easter Mass

2727 Tracy Update

Work has continued at the new school with much progress being made.

In addition to the work below, security cameras have been installed. All plumbing issues have been identified and are being addressed. And much more...



The Chapel has been painted, wood floor, base boards and trim installed.



Confessional.



Entrance to the Chapel. Wood doors framed in glass panels will be installed.



The beautiful altar formerly in the chapel in Fr. May's current office will be used in the new school's chapel.



David Blake and his team of volunteers finished painting the 2nd floor classroom ceilings and some cleaning was done. Areas in the hallways and 2nd floor classrooms have been masked and painting begun.



Charles Binter demonstrates that the mechanical locks are in working order.



The library has been painted. Steve Patterson built, stained and installed some of the book shelves.



The secretary's office and infirmary (above) and Principal's and Vice Principal's offices (below) will have windows installed in the walls. A pass-through will be added between the secretary's office and the infirmary.



The back fence has been cleared of weeds and trees, and neighbors have done the same on their side. Brush, weeds and trees were also cleared from the street side.



Academy News



The 12th and 11th grade boys demonstrate their third quarter physics project – Marble Rollercoasters – to the younger grades.



The Forty Holy Martyrs Intramural Ultimate Frisbee Tournament was won by the Lower Class (10th & 9th grade boys).



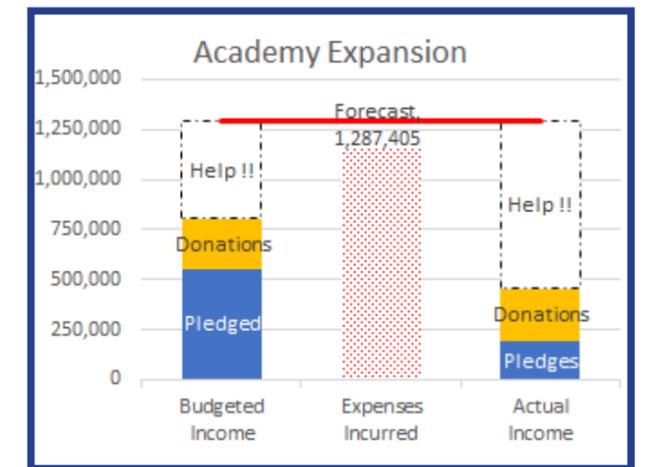
Meeting of the Braves on February 29.

Distance Learning Program

When Kansas City Mayor Lucas asked for the suspension of all activities of 50 or more St. Vincent de Paul Academy had to suspend classes until further notice. Parents were asked to collect all their children's books from school. They were told that March 16 - 20 would be the Academy's Spring Break, giving teachers time to prepare assignments for students to complete at home. Since March 23 students have been picking up weekly assignments which are then returned to the teachers for grading.

Distance Learning Continued

The city of Kansas City has extended the Stay-at-Home Order until May 15, which means that St. Vincent de Paul Academy will continue its distant learning program until that date. The Governor of Missouri has decided that public schools will not return to classroom teaching this academic year, however, we will wait until May 15 to make that determination for our Academy.



St. Vincent's Church & Academy News

For sermons by the priests at St. Vincent's visit www.stvincentkc.org/media.

US District Online Resources for the Faithful

For live streaming of Masses and spiritual conferences go to https://corona.sspk.online/en_US/19307/265284/corona_virus_resources.html.

ROSARY CRUSADE



Salve Regina, Mater Misericordia, Vita, Dulcedo et Spes Nostra, Salve

Dear Faithful,

I trust we all learn from this virus the new and only focus: God and my soul! Everything else is trivial and transient. Even if the disease temporarily takes the sacraments away from us, it cannot take away our God. He is our loving Father; we are His sons. Jesus died for us and rose from the dead; we are His friends. He gave us his mother; we are her children. External things and contacts are all details from this viewpoint. Our hope in God should not suffer.

On the contrary! Where everything else falls and crumbles, our faith should grow more intimate. Where we experience trials, the Faith becomes real on a personal level, and charity excels.

Together we want to undertake something special, to change this time of containment into a spiritual remedy. Let us ensure that the health crisis that menaces our bodies develops into a triumph of faith, hope, and charity that refines and vivifies our souls, internalizing what is now still too superficial.

So we turn again to the Rosary! For 16 weeks, we will give our love to Our Lady: from the Sunday of the Good Shepherd until August 15th, the feast of her Assumption. Every day let us immerse ourselves into the mysteries of the lives of Our Lord and Our Lady, to get close to Our Lady to learn from her the genuine love of Christ.

We take her as our guide, the Star of the Sea! We will count our rosaries. But what matters more than numbers is that we advance in the intimacy of Jesus and Mary with every Hail Mary, every decade, and every Rosary.

At the end of the 16 weeks, we wish to consecrate ourselves to Our Lady. This consecration should be the affirmation of our conversion, prompted by the coronavirus, begun with a resolute will, guided by

Our Lady. Observe the example of St. Bernard:

Mary is that bright star of Jacob, whose ray enlightens the entire world, whose splendor shines conspicuously in heaven and penetrates hell. It pervades the earth and warms - not the body but the soul, banishing vice and maturing virtue. For she is that bright and splendid star, elevated above this vast and spacious sea, who glitters by her merits and enlightens by her example. If you find yourself tossed about by storms and tempests in the current of this world, turn not away your eyes from the brightness of this star unless you wish to be overwhelmed by its waves.

In dangers, in difficulties, and doubts; think on Mary and invoke her. Let her name never depart from your mouth or heart; and that you may obtain the benefit of her intercession, forget not to imitate the example of her life. In following her, you cannot go astray; in appealing to her, you cannot despair; and in thinking on her, you cannot wander. While she supports you, you cannot fall; while she protects you, you cannot fear; while she guides you, you cannot feel fatigue; and if she is propitious, you will arrive in safety.

You will receive a booklet for this crusade, with spiritual instructions and tally sheets. Every week we will offer an article for your inspiration. On August 15th, I will say the Mass of Our Lady and offer to Our Mother all our pleas and efforts as a modest contribution of her grateful children.

From past crusades, I recognize how generous you are! This renewed effort will be a marvelous grace for each of us and a mighty instrument in Our Lady's hands to bring about the victory of her Immaculate Heart.

Fr. Jürgen Wegner