

# St. Mary of Czestochowa

1867 95th Street SE  
Delano, MN 55328  
(952) 446-1054



March 21, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

These are certainly strange and difficult times. Know that I continue to carry you all very close in my heart at the Altar and in my personal prayer. In addition to the concerns of the virus and its global impact, it has led us to live in a very different way than we imagined even last week. Among the changes, one of the most difficult has been the separation from the Eucharist. As our hearts continue to ache for the Lord, we are reminded that He also dwells with us, and is accessible through our personal prayer. It is this prayer that will help us to continue to stay close to the Lord, in the eye of the storm, to fight against the fear, stress, and anxiety that can come especially in times like this.

**Opportunities for Prayer.** Although our situation can change any given moment, we want to also be able to provide for your spiritual needs. To this end, we will have the following availabilities at St. Mary of Czestochowa:

- The parish will be open for individual prayer Wednesday and Sunday from 8am-3pm. In an effort to protect all members of our community, we ask that families with small children and those still working outside the home use the parish after 12 noon.
- We will be sanitizing each day we are open
- To continue to offer this, we need to follow the MDH and Archdiocesan guidelines
  - Don't come if you feel ill
  - No more than 10 people can be present at a time
  - Keep at least 6 feet from others that are there as well.
- Confessions will be available:
  - Wednesday 11:30-12:30
  - Sunday 11:30-12:30
  - or by appointment.
- Our 24 hours devotion will still take place, although we must adhere to the MDH guidelines
- Funerals and Baptisms can still happen, although we must adhere to the MDH guidelines
- I will continue to post some reflections and homilies on our internet platforms (Facebook and website: <http://stboniface-stmary.org/>).
- There are also options for prayer, devotions, and Mass on the radio (1330 AM) and on television (EWTN).

**Support each other.** As we experience God's love for us, we also want to continue to support each other in our parish family. One way we can do that is to reach out with a phone call to those that you know from the parish to help keep us all connected. These connections are important as we are social by nature, and many are suffering from loneliness and isolation. Even a quick phone call can be important to help all of us remember that we will get through this together. Also, please let me know if you are in need of groceries or

**"Serving Jesus Christ by serving others."**

errands and we will have someone help meet that need. I also invite you to join me each day in praying the Rosary and Chaplet in your homes at 3pm.

**Support our Parish.** As you know, our parish's day to day operations rely on your generosity. The economic impact of this pandemic is unclear at this time. Some of our friends, relatives and community members have been temporarily furloughed and others are suffering from illness. In addition, we at the parish are also concerned about the impact it will have here when we are not physically together. Prayerfully I request (for those that can) to continue to remember your parish at this time of great need. Because the expenses continue even when we are not in our church to celebrate, I respectfully and humbly request that if you can continue to support parish life, you do. We are taking great care to reduce expenses where we can, including turning the temperature down in the buildings. We will continue to take additional measures as the next week(s) progress to evaluate and reduce expenses as we are able. If you are able to provide support, here are some ways to send your financial support:

- Visit our website, and very soon you will be able to click "donate".
  - <http://stboniface-stmary.org/>
  - Click on "Donate"
- Mail your check to the parish in lieu of placing in the Sunday collection at:
  - 1867 95<sup>th</sup> St SE, Delano, MN 55328
- Set up bill pay via your personal bank, mail to parish at:
  - 1867 95<sup>th</sup> St SE, Delano, MN 55328
- Set up auto pay via your personal bank ACH. Call the office for our Bank Name, ABA Routing #, and Account Number.

**Stay updated on changes.** We will be posting updates to our website <http://stboniface-stmary.org/> as well as our [Facebook page](#). We encourage you to check these sites daily for new information if you are able. If you do not have easy access to the internet, we would be happy to add you to a call list to periodically update you as news arises. Please let us know by contacting the parish office.

Finally, please know that I am fully committed to supporting you, our parishioners, in whatever challenges lie in the days ahead. Thank you for being part of our parish family. May God be with each of you and your families and know that you are in my prayers daily. Please continue to keep me in prayer as well.

"Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand" - Isaiah 41:10

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fr. Peter Hughes". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the text "In Christ,".

Fr. Peter