OLGC’s vision is to offer every person in our community a life-changing encounter with Jesus.
**In this Issue**

From the Pastor

Upcoming 100 year Events

Our History:
- His Churches & Pastors
- His Milestones
- Prayer, Readings, & Intentions
- Faith Life
- The Future Domestic Church
- Our School: Educating for 70 Years

**Our Lady of Good Counsel**

**PARISH OFFICE**
1062 Church St, Plymouth, 48170
(734) 453-0326
Fax: (734) 416-9257
parishoffice@olgcparish.net
Temporary schedule:
- Mondays: closed
- Tuesdays through Fridays: Noon to 4 pm

**CHURCH & SOCIAL HALL**
47650 N Territorial Rd
Plymouth, MI 48170
Website: www.olgcparish.net

**MASS TIMES (currently suspended)**
- Monday & Friday: 8 am
- Tuesday: 6:30 am & 8 am
- Wednesday: 6 pm
- Thursday: 6:30 am
- Saturday: 8 am & 4 pm
- Sunday: 8 am, 10 am, 12 pm, & 5 pm

**RECONCILIATION** by appointment

**Pastor:** Fr. Michael Suhy, ext. 233
**Associate Pastor:** Fr. David Tomaszycki
tomaszycki@olgcparish.net, ext. 267
**Associate Pastor:** Fr. Anthony Camilleri
camilleri@olgcparish.net, ext. 224
**Deacon:** Rev. Mr. Dave Carignan
carignand@olgcparish.net, ext. 249
**Deacon:** Rev. Mr. Steve Mitchell
mitchells@olgcparish.net, ext. 248
**Deacon:** Rev. Mr. Vince Small
smallv@olgcparish.net

For a staff directory and all commissions, ministries, and groups, please go to: www.olgcparish.net

**School Office (currently closed)**
(734) 453-3053, Fax: (734) 357-5331
1151 William St, Plymouth, 48170
School office contact in summer: email oconnor@olgcparish.net.

**Religious Formation Office**
(734) 453-0326, ext. 225
1160 Penniman Ave.
Plymouth, MI 48170

**Want to receive our weekly e-newsletter? Text THIRST to 84576.**
(Data rates may apply)

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**This week at OLGC**

As of April 22, ALL PARISH AND SCHOOL EVENTS INCLUDING PUBLIC MASSES ARE SUSPENDED UNTIL AT LEAST MAY 1.

(please check olgcparish.net for the most current information and/or sign up to receive important messages, see graphic below right)

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass & Adoration:
- Daily Mass and Weekend Mass Times:
  - Cancelled per Archbishop Vigneron until further notice.
- Masses:

  Until further notice, OLGC will not be live-streaming the Mass. We are evaluating some concerns but will keep the church open for personal prayer.

**Stay close to Jesus! Check out these livestreams at www.aod.org/livemasses.**

- **AOD COVID-19 Response & Recommendations**:
  - https://www.aod.org/emergencyresponse
- **Adoration Chapel**: Anyone in possession of the door code may use the Chapel.

**Parish and Church Office Hours until further notice:**
- Office is closed until further notice, but phones and mail are monitored.
- Emergencies Requiring a Priest: call (734) 453-0326 and listen to the prompts.
- Other Inquiries: call (734) 453-0326 and leave a message.
- Main Church will be open seven days a week: 6 am to 8 pm.

**Opportunities during these challenging times:**
- Daily meditations from The Word Among Us: https://wau.org/meditations.
- Magnificat has offered free access to their online version: https://us.magnificat.net/free.
- Daily Mass with Bishop Barron: https://www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass/.
- Sunday Masses at Notre Dame University, South Bend, IN: http://www.catholictv.org/

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**Our Services**

**Parish Registration**
Newcomers are always welcome. See olgcparish.net/join.

**Hearing Assistance**
Please see our website or contact the Parish Office for information regarding:
- Anointing of the Sick
- Baptism
- Communion to the Sick
- Mass Intentions
- Matrimony
- Reconciliation

**Online Giving**
Click GIVE on the upper right corner of our parish website home page for info, access, or to enroll.

**View Abundant Life Online**
www.olgcparish.net or discovermass.com.

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**Bulletin Articles**
Submit text & photos no later than 9 am Thursday (10 days before).
Email: bulletin@olgcparish.net

**Facilities Scheduling and Rental**
To schedule a Parish related event, contact Janet Rost at (734) 453-0326; ext. 229 or events@olgcparish.net.

**Parish Events Calendar**
http://calendar.olgcparish.net

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Sign up for important parish messages at flocknote.com/olgc
My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Peace of Jesus in your heart and on your lips! It is such an extraordinary grace for our Parish Family to be celebrating our 100th Anniversary! Every family has its own lineage and story which weaves the generations into a beautiful tapestry for God, so, too, do we, as Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, with the many footprints of faith left by those who’ve gone before us. The gift of God’s faithfulness and providential care over this community for generations is overwhelming. His covenant has never wavered, and so we can remain steadfast knowing His grace is sufficient. Blessed be God!

How poignant then, given the coronavirus pandemic, that this is the season in our Parish history when you and I celebrate the work of God in and through this Body of Christ for the last century. Despite our current tumult, God is with us! Our Savior has come! We have been, and still are, commissioned as disciples of Jesus! This Parish and her people endured through many challenging seasons, weathering multiple global wars, the Spanish Flu, the Great Depression, the Cold War, the fight for Civil Rights, eighteen different presidents, and eight different popes, to say the least.

As always, our patroness, Our Lady of Good Counsel, gives us her wisdom to, “do whatever He tells you,” (Jn 25), and we must heed Jesus’ final words from the cross, “Behold your mother,” (Jn 19:27). These two exhortations from Scripture are our 100th Anniversary theme but also express the theme for our lives. We must praise God for the supply lines of grace flowing from the Lord Jesus and our Blessed Mother as the sustainable food given us for all that we face and all that we do. Such grace leads to hope!

As we celebrate our milestone year, let us enjoy the little and big moments of worship, fellowship, prayer, and community through whatever means we have at our disposal. Let us remember the richness of our Catholic life lived here in sacramental preparations and celebrations, corporate and spiritual works of mercy, silent and praise-filled Eucharistic adoration, and, most especially, in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Let us rejoice in every occasion, from birth to burial, witnessing that this community has become stronger, united as one family sharing in our common identity as children of God. Let us not lose sight of the faithfulness of our ancestors in running the race and the courage we are given to persevere for our leg of it; and let us live out our mission and truly offer everyone a life-changing encounter with Jesus. Certainly, the Presence of the Lord is in this place!

When we gather again in one place as one family, may we be grateful for every good gift God has given us, ready to celebrate with great joy as a community, opening our hearts to receive Jesus even more, and be relentless in unleashing the Good News of Jesus Christ to all those we meet.

Our Lady of Good Counsel, pray for us!

In Jesus and Mary,

Fr. Michael Suhy, Pastor
OUR CELEBRATION GOES ON!

Months ago, our Parish Family was invited to “Save the Date” for the weekend of April 25-26th in honor of the feast day of Our Lady of Good Counsel for our 100 Year Anniversary. Though this weekend might look different than initially planned due to our being in unprecedented times in the midst of a pandemic, our celebration goes on. We invite you to spend some time reading through this special edition of our bulletin as a way for our Parish Family to unite in spirit on this feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel.

In this time of “shifting plans,” we learn from Proverbs 16:9: “The human heart plans the way, but the LORD directs the steps.” This so beautifully aligns with the beginning of our 100th anniversary year as we united as a Parish Family in the School of Prayer.

By turning to the Lord in prayer, we were hopeful that He would provide us with clear direction for the plans in mind for the remainder of the year. Now, more than ever, this docility to His will for this year’s plans has provided so much peace amidst the great unknown of this time.

Even in the isolation of our homes, the Lord is guiding us in beautiful ways to encounter the beauty of Jesus, grow in His truth, and witness to His goodness in this year. Let us first reflect on “why” we celebrate this anniversary and the guiding spiritual theme for our celebration. Following this, we are thrilled to share some of the plans that the Lord has directed and refined for the remainder of the year.

WHY DO WE CELEBRATE?

Why do we celebrate anniversaries, birthdays, and other important days? To have a party, cake, and ice cream, talk about the ‘old days,’ have a laugh, and remember people from the past. It is a great time to pause in the present moment, to reflect back on the events of the past, and consider how our future may play out.

Think about a time in your life when you went to a party to celebrate a significant anniversary (like your grandparents’ 50th wedding anniversary).

What was the experience like? Did you hear stories about how they met, what they were like before they knew each other, how they almost didn’t get married, their first date, first kiss, first fight, first house, first child, etc.? For many of us, these memories are tucked away in the recesses of our mind and don’t come to light unless we trigger them with a party or other event. It reminds us of where we have come from and influences where we are going.

For our 100 Year Anniversary, it is valuable to have this same experience. This Parish has been in existence since November 27, 1920, when the first Mass was offered in prayer by Fr. Francis Lefevre. Since that time, think about the number of people who have received the Sacraments through the priests of Our Lady of Good Counsel; Baptisms, Reconciliations, Holy Eucharist, Confirmations, Weddings, Funeral Liturgies. How many firsts have the people of Plymouth experienced in the holy space that God has provided?

Reflecting on this anniversary, we can begin to see how God sees. 100 years is laid out for us in a snapshot of time and significant events and people are brought forward. In hindsight, we may see how God worked in their lives. In foresight, we may learn to be more receptive to God’s Will in our own life. Let us enter this 100 Year Anniversary celebration with a heart open to the grace God has in store for us this year.

100TH SPIRITUAL THEME

BEHOLD YOUR MOTHER • JOHN 19:27 • DO WHATEVER HE TELLS YOU • JOHN 2:5

4 Abundant Life April 26, 2020 www.OLGCParish.net
“Do whatever He tells You.” John 2:5

As the Parish name states, our patroness is Our Lady of Good Counsel. In this name, we consider what her “good counsel” is for us by contemplating her words in Scripture. In the marriage feast at Cana (John 2:1-11), when the wine is consumed before the celebration has completed, Mary takes it upon herself to help the family by bringing the need to Jesus. Her response is where we derive our theme for the year, as she turns to the steward and says her final words in scripture, “Do whatever He tells You” (John 2:5).

This is great advice and counsel from the Blessed Virgin Mother. But what is He telling us?

In Jesus’ final words in Scripture, we hear what He tells us to do, and it fits so perfectly with our Parish mission statement, “Offering every person in our community a life-changing encounter with Jesus.” Jesus’ final words to the apostles are, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:19-20).

Jesus calls us to share the Gospel with others in the Great Commission. We are called to do this with our family, friends, and enemies; especially all the people we encounter in our community. The specifics of how we do it will come to us when we listen to Jesus in His School of Prayer. In this 100th Anniversary Year, rather than allow the fear and anxiety of the unknown to steal our peace, let us pray more regularly and fervently so we heed the good counsel of our Blessed Mother and “Do whatever He tells us!”

“Behold Your Mother.” John 19:27

In praying with this theme, we focus on what Jesus is saying to us about the Blessed Virgin Mother. We hold her in the highest esteem, for she is Theotokos, the Mother of God. In “beholding” her, we contemplate the life she led as revealed in the Gospel. From the beginning, her obedience to the Father’s Will is unique, for it is perfect. Preserved from the stain of original sin, she lives her life in perfect service to God.

Through the most difficult situations, her faith never wavers. Early Church Fathers speak of the Seven Sorrows of Mary, including: the Prophecy of Simeon, Flight into Egypt, Loss of Jesus for Three Days, Way to Calvary, At the Foot of the Cross, Reception of the Dead Body of Jesus, and Placing Him in the Tomb. How much she suffered, how strong her faith is, and how much she teaches us!

As we “behold” our mother this year, may we recognize and behold how she lived her earthly life and how she lives her heavenly life in perfect fidelity to God. Let us call on her intercession this year as we progress in prayer to know and live in God’s Will.

SAVE THE DATE!

SUNDAY 8/16
PARISH HOMECOMING

With our spiritual foundation in place for the 100 Year Anniversary, the Lord has beautifully refined the plans of our hearts for the year. Though time will certainly tell if we will be able to physically come together, we still ask that you save the date of Sunday, August 16th for our 100 Year Anniversary Parish Family Homecoming. In honor of the feast of the Assumption of Mary, we will celebrate her “homecoming” with a Parish Family celebration.

More than ever before, God has revealed to us the pure joy found in simply enjoying fellowship with one another, sharing a meal, and coming together as One Body in the Mass. God has made it clear that we don’t need all the bells and whistles to give praise and glory to all He has accomplished at OLGc in the last 100 years. By keeping this close to our hearts and allowing God to lead, we are able to look forward to this celebration without the worry of changing plans. As time progresses, we will share details with more clarity as God provides it to us.
WAYS TO COMMEMORATE

In addition to the importance of setting aside a day in time to celebrate as a Parish Family, the Lord has also guided the creation of several memorabilia to allow the Anniversary to live on in our hearts.

Pewabic Tile

We are absolutely thrilled to share that the Parish has developed a custom 6”x6” Pewabic Pottery tile to commemorate the founding of OLGC in 1920 and our 100 Year Anniversary. Pewabic Pottery artisans are handcrafting our tiles using their classic stoneware clay body and unique glazes. The tile will include coloring to match the mantle on the Our Lady of Guadalupe tilma and a design to match our Parish’s Our Lady of Good Counsel Mosaic with Our Lady and Jesus.

Pre-order sales run from Saturday, April 25th - Sunday, May 31st. By pre-ordering your tile, you receive special pricing of $75 per tile. Orders can be placed online at www.bit.ly/OLGCTile.

PLEASE NOTE: Limited quantity is available. We are hopeful the production will be completed in summer 2020, but ask for your patience and flexibility as we work with Pewabic Tile amidst the unforeseen shutdown of operations in our country.

Church Directory

We are grateful to the hundreds of families who participated in our 100 Year Anniversary Church Directory project at the end of 2019. At this time, all of the family photos and supplemental pages are being assembled into the OLGC 2020 Church Directory. Similar to the tile project, we are hopeful the production will be completed sometime in summer 2020, but ask for your patience and flexibility as we work with Universal Church Directories amidst the unforeseen shutdown of operations in our country. Once the books arrive at the Church, communications will be shared with all participants on how to pick-up your complimentary copy.

Please Note: if you did not participate in the OLGC 2020 Church Directory, you will not receive a complimentary copy, but a set of additional prints will be available to purchase.

The History of OLGC

For the first time ever, our Parish is thrilled to announce a living work of The History of OLGC. For a brief preview of this living work, please scan through the later pages in this special bulletin edition. Using records, photos, archives, and documentation from years past, a permanent digital display will be added to our website. In this way, our history is alive, and we can proudly proclaim God’s amazing accomplishments through our Parish year after year. Stay tuned for the launch of this final digital display.

UNITED IN PRAYER

As we continue on with our School of Prayer, though in a different format, we invite you to visit www.olgcparish.net/prayer. This webpage includes an abundance of resources, apps, videos, etc. to assist you in your continued journey of discovering, deepening, and diagnosing your prayer life.

By visiting www.bit.ly/OLGCAngelus you will also find the Angelus Prayer. We invite you to join us in praying the Angelus daily. For centuries, church bells rang daily at 6am, 12pm, and 6pm calling everyone to pray the Angelus together. The whole people of God united their hearts in petition and praise, reveling in the mystery that God became man in Jesus Christ, suffered, died, and rose from the dead. The Pope still leads the people of God in this prayer every Sunday. During the remainder of this year, we will be ringing our church bells daily at 12pm as a call for all of us to pray the Angelus. Let us seek God’s grace together, finding rest in the peace of His coming and the glory of His resurrection!

Finally, we ask that you and your family wrap this 100 Year Anniversary in prayer. In order to work to be in the perfect Will of God for this year, we can offer prayer to God through His Mother. With all of us united in prayer as a Parish Family and with the intercession of Our Lady, we can rest in confidence that God will send His divine providence over Our Lady of Good Counsel and our 100 Year Anniversary.

Written by Bill Brewis, OLGC Parish Council President
MARY’S MAY CROWNING

OUR LADY’S MAY CROWNING
MONDAY, APRIL 27
6:00PM

In honor of OLGC’s 100 Year Anniversary, join us for a special livestream Mass!

COMMENORATIVE PEWABIC TILE

INTRODUCING OLGC’S COMMEMORATIVE PEWABIC POTTERY TILE

PRE-ORDER SALES
4 | 25 - 5 | 31
SPECIAL $75 PRICE

LIMITED QUANTITY!

Order Online Today:
bit.ly/OLGCTile

BEHOLD YOUR MOTHER · JOHN 19:27 · DO WHATEVER HE TELLS YOU · JOHN 2:5

Until further notice, OLGC will not be live-streaming the Mass. We are evaluating some concerns but will keep the church open for personal prayer. Check out these livestreams at www.aod.org/livemasses.
OLGC HISTORY

OLGC HISTORY

HIS CHURCHES

CHURCH 1
1920 - 1928 · Dodge and Union Streets

CHURCH 2
1928 - 1932 · Dodge and Union Streets

CHURCH 3
1934 - 1949 · Dodge and Union Streets

CHURCH 4
1949 - 1966 · William and Arthur Streets

CHURCH 5
1966 - 2000 · Penniman Street

CHURCH 6
2000 - Present · N. Territorial Road

BEHOLD YOUR MOTHER · JOHN 19:27 · DO WHATEVER HE TELLS YOU · JOHN 2:5
REV. FRANCIS C. LEFEVRE  
1920 - 1938

REV. VICTOR RENAUD  
1938 - 1942

REV. WILLIAM P. MOONEY  
1942 - 1953

FR. FRANCIS C. BYRNE  
1953 - 1973

FR. KENNETH MACKINNON  
1973 - 1986

FR. RICHARD PERFETTO  
1986 - 1990

FR. JAMES WYSOCKI  
1990 - 1992

FR. JOHN J. SULLIVAN  
1992 - 2007

FR. JOHN RICCARDO  
2007 - 2019

FR. MICHAEL SUHY  
2019 - Present

BEHOLD YOUR MOTHER • JOHN 19:27 • DO WHATEVER HE TELLS YOU • JOHN 2:5
In 1915, the Catholic families in and around the Village of Plymouth petitioned the Ordinary of Detroit to have Mass in their area. As a result, the Village of Plymouth Church was established as a mission of St. Mary’s Milford, and, for the next five years, Mass was celebrated here one Sunday a month.

During this time, the Catholic families, now numbering 30, petitioned for a permanent Pastor. They also raised pledges and subscriptions in the amount of $4,200 to buy the first church building of Our Lady of Good Counsel at Dodge and Union Streets. On November 27, 1920, the first Sunday of Advent, Father Francis C. Lefevre celebrated the first Mass in the Parish as its permanent Pastor. Later that Christmas, the bishop announced the name of the Parish to be Our Lady of Good Counsel.

By July 1928, the remodeling of the first Church was completed only to be tragically destroyed in a fire in December 1932. A temporary basement building was built on the property in 1934 and used as the third Church for 15 years. OLGCC eventually acquired the Allen property on Penniman (currently used as our Parish House) in 1942 and plans were kick-started to build a new Church and School.

By Palm Sunday, 1949, the first Mass was celebrated in our fourth Church on William and Arthur (this Church is now used as the School Gym). This same year, a house adjoining the property on Church Street was also purchased and remodeled to serve as a convent (currently used as our Parish Office).

Just a few months later, Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic School would open its doors with six grades and 310 students in Fall 1949. The school would celebrate its first 8th grade graduating class of 24 students in June 1952.
Once again outgrowing our facilities, the School built an eight-classroom addition in 1960 and OLGc began work on its fifth Church on Penniman in 1964 (this Church is now used by the School for the Junior High, Commons Area, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Chapel, and Music Room). The fifth Church was dedicated on July 9, 1966.

Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, OLGc was led by many phenomenal Pastors and many remodeling projects and upgrades took place on the Parish campus. As had happened before, by the 1990s, the Parish outgrew its property. Fr. John Sullivan was welcomed in 1992 and he initiated plans for our current Church with the acquisition of the Beck and N. Territorial property on December 14, 1994. By 1998, the groundbreaking took place, and the beautiful campus we enjoy today was dedicated on September 9, 2000 by Cardinal Adam Maida.

With Fr. John Riccardo's arrival in 2007, the Grotto, Garden of Gethsemane, Saints statues, and many more beautiful additions were brought to the Church. The turn of the decade brought a new a growth in community with the adoption of a new Parish Mission, digital communication tools, and major evangelization efforts.

In January 2013, Fr. John announced a 30,000-square foot Church Expansion project. Archbishop Vigneron attended the groundbreaking ceremony on April 24, 2016. On September 17, 2017, the Parish celebrated the completion of a gym and walking track, child care rooms, meeting spaces, youth area, and much more. Before leaving, Fr. John also oversaw the remodel of our current Sanctuary.

Fr. Michael Suhy was joyfully welcomed as our new Pastor in July 2019. This year also celebrated the unveiling of a beautiful new Memorial for the Unborn outside of the Chapel. On March 19, 2020, the St. Joseph Adoration Chapel was dedicated as OLGc’s first perpetual Adoration Chapel. As our Parish Family celebrates 100 years of God’s goodness, we look forward to the next 100 years ahead.
Monday, April 27
With faith in the one sent by the Father, Stephen, blameless in life, performed signs for all to see.
Romans 1:1-7; 10:1-10
Stephen entrusts his spirit to come down from heaven.
Galatians 6:1-10; Jn 6:30-40
Resolute in their belief in joyfully proclaim Jesus the Messiah.

Tuesday, April 28
St. Peter Chanel, Priest & Martyr; St. Louis Grignon de Montfort, Priest
Acts 7:51—8:1a; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 7b and 8a, 17 and 21ab; Jn 6:30-35
Stephen entrusts his spirit to the just one, the bread of life come down from heaven.
Romans 1:1-7; 10:1-10
Resolute in their belief in joyfully proclaim Jesus the Messiah.

Wednesday, April 29
St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church
Acts 8:1b-8; Ps 66:1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a; Jn 6:35-40 1
Resolve to believe in those who believe in the Risen One, the disciples joyfully proclaim Jesus the Messiah.
Romans 1:1-7; 10:1-10
Resolute in their belief in joyfully proclaim Jesus the Messiah.

Thursday, April 30
St. Pius V, Pope
Acts 8:26-40; Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20; Jn 6:44-51
With joyful praise, Philip proclaims the good news to the Ethiopian: belief in Jesus brings eternal life.
Romans 1:1-7; 10:1-10
Resolute in their belief in joyfully proclaim Jesus the Messiah.

Friday, May 1
Memorial of St. Joseph the Worker
Acts 9:1-20; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Jn 6:52-59 or Gn 1:26—2:3 or Col 3:14-15, 17, 23-24; Mt 13:54-58
Paul is called by Jesus to proclaim the good news to all peoples. Jesus invites all to his Eucharistic banquet.

Saturday, May 2
Memorial of St. Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Acts 9:31-42; Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 16-17; Jn 6:60-69
Peter, calling upon the name of the Lord, speaks words of life and raises up Tabitha from death.

Sunday, May 3
Fourth Sunday of Easter
Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; 1 Pt 2:20b-25; Jn 10:1-10
God has made Jesus both Lord & Messiah. Through his wounds, we have been healed and have returned to our shepherd. Let us listen for his voice and follow him.
Romans 1:1-7; 10:1-10
Resolute in their belief in joyfully proclaim Jesus the Messiah.

Our Vicariate, (Northwest Wayne) has begun a monthly prayer calendar for priests. Here are this week’s intentions:
Sunday—All deceased priests; Monday—Rev. Thomas Kramer of Resurrection Parish; Tuesday—All retired priests; Wednesday—Rev. Paul Ballen & Rev. Mark Livingston of St. John Neumann Parish; Thursday—All seminarians; Friday—All Deacons; Saturday—For vocations; Next Sunday—Rev. Michael Suhy, Rev. David Tomaszycki, & Rev. Anthony Camilleri of Our Lady of Good Counsel.
Spiritual Communion Prayer for times we cannot attend Mass

Acts of Spiritual Communion

It has long been a Catholic understanding that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion, it is possible to make an Act of Spiritual Communion which is a source of grace. Spiritual Communion means uniting one’s self in prayer with Christ’s sacrifice and worshipping him in his Body and Blood.

The most common reason for making an Act of Spiritual Communion is when a person cannot attend Mass. Acts of Spiritual Communion increase our desire to receive sacramental Communion and help us avoid the sins that would make us unable to receive Holy Communion worthily.

A prayer for 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 in 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.

Recommendations from the Parish Nurses on how to stay safe during the pandemic

1. **Stay home.** Person to person contact with only those you live with.
2. If you have to go to the store, make a comprehensive list and **try to get all your items at one store and get enough supplies to last 2 weeks.** DO NOT use reusable bags! Don’t socialize in the store. The longer you are in a store the more risk you have to droplet exposure from other people. Get in and get out.
3. **If you have a mask, wear it.** To properly use a mask: a. wash your hands b. apply masks c. take off mask by only touching the straps d. wash hands. Do not touch the outside of the mask itself as it is now dirty. If using a mask, wash it daily.
4. If possible, **designate one person to be the primary grocery shopper.**
5. **Wipe down the cart handle** with sanitizing wipes.
6. **Gloves:** These are not necessary if you practice good hand hygiene. If you have disposable gloves and want to wear them you will still need to wash/sanitize your hands after you remove the gloves. And you still shouldn’t touch your face, even with gloves on. Dispose of the gloves at the store. Use hand sanitizer or a sanitizing wipe the minute you get in the car. Wash your hands when you get home and after you put your groceries away.
7. **If you wear eyeglasses** please wash them when you get home as well.
8. If you have **wipes and hand sanitizer,** please keep them in your car to use as needed when you have to go to the store. They should have at least a 60% alcohol content.
9. **There is no official recommendation to sanitize your groceries.** Throw away the bags and WASH WASH WASH your hands.
10. **Clean frequently touched surfaces at home.**
11. **Call your healthcare provider with questions or concerns.**

For information on **how to use/care for your cloth masks:** https://www.inquirer.com/health/coronavirus/coronavirus-covid19-how-to-clean-face-masks-facemask-washing-20200407.html

For information on **proper hand washing:** https://youtu.be/ls6GbMfKvl
Building the Domestic Church of the Future

"Families are the domestic Church, where Jesus grows." Pope Francis

In the Beginning
Before there was a Church on mission, there was a family. This communion of persons made in the image of God presided over creation as an “intimate community of life and love.” In order to become the Church of the future, we must return to our domestic roots and be the family our Creator intended us to be.

Here are four pillars you can build at home to support your Domestic Church:

1) Identity
John Paul II writes in an apostolic exhortation to families, “Each family finds within itself a summons that cannot be ignored, and that specifies both its dignity and its responsibility: family, become what you are.” Regardless of your state or season of life, be “imitators of God, as beloved children”—this is the ultimate identity of every human person; to know and be known by your Creator (Ephesians 5:1).

2) Prayer
Scripture exhorts us to “Pray constantly” (1 Thessalonians 5:17). In fact, praying is the most intimate activity a family can do together! It is in prayer that a family forms the kind of bond that withstands life’s storms, families grow in faith and virtue while learning to hear the still, small voice of God. There is a communion unlike any other unleashed when spouses pray together and when parents and children pray together, “For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them” (Matthew 18:19).

3) Scriptures
Reading the Bible together is one of the most powerful tools in building your Domestic Church. St. Jerome is often quoted as saying that ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ. In the Scriptures we encounter the Word made flesh, we receive the wisdom of God to guide us, and are given spiritual weapons to fight the enemy of our souls.

4) Evangelization
Pope Paul VI profoundly communicates this pillar: “The family, like the Church, ought to be a place where the Gospel is transmitted and from which the Gospel radiates. In a family which is conscious of this mission, all the members evangelize and are evangelized. The parents not only communicate the Gospel to their children, but from their children they can themselves receive the same Gospel as deeply lived by them. And such a family becomes the evangelizer of many other families, and of the neighborhood of which it forms part.”

Grace for the Journey
People often ask me, “But what does it look like? Where do I start in the Bible? How should we pray?” My answer is always the same: You don’t need a step-by-step program. Do not be deceived by your intellect, and do not be intimidated by your insecurities. In short, obey Jesus today. That’s it.

Maybe you have tried and failed in one or more of these areas. We all have! Be assured of His sufficient grace as your Domestic Church grows into God’s beautiful plan.
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