MAY 17, 2020 • Sixth Sunday of Easter

Jesus said, "I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth."

John 14:16-17

WEEKEND MASSES (Suspended until further notice)
Saturday: 8:00 a.m., 4:30 p.m. (anticipated), Sunday: 7:45, 9:30, 11:15 a.m., 5:00 p.m.
May 13, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

These fifty days of Easter, leading to Pentecost, are marked by unprecedented suffering, as humanity has fallen victim to a perilous contagion. In addition to the threats to our physical wellbeing, we are suffering spiritually as the Covid-19 pandemic has required restrictions of our worship and active participation in the sacramental life of the Church. Surely, there have been moments in history when governments and rulers have persecuted Christians and banned their public worship. This is not one of them. Rather, the present restrictions come in response to an extreme medical emergency as local, state and federal authorities – specifically public health officials – legitimately fulfil their responsibilities to safeguard human life and the common good. They have based their reasonable guidance on careful consideration of empirical data and the best available disease-mitigation practices as they seek to contain the pandemic’s rampage through our communities.

While everyone must exercise good citizenship in observing these restrictions, I call on the Catholic faithful, as advocates for justice and charity, to comply with these regulations. From the first pages of Scripture we learn that we indeed are “our brother’s keeper,” a truth that must inspire us as we are called to sacrifice. We should also be motivated to cooperate with public safety norms, given our reverence for life and human dignity. This is, at its heart, a moment to proclaim the breadth and depth of what it means to be pro-life, particularly as this virus preys on the most vulnerable in our midst.

The good news is that a plan for a gradual reopening of our churches has now taken shape, as I note below. However, since our movements will be restricted as that plan unfolds in different phases, your pastors and bishops will continue for the present time to offer Mass in private each day and to livestream and broadcast Masses from our parishes and the archdiocese. I am particularly grateful to ABC-TV, Univision and Polvision in Chicago for giving us airtime every Sunday. These celebrations surely are not the same as gathering in our churches for Mass, but I know from hearing from many parishioners that they provide a great deal of solace and support in this time of uncertainty.

We must be honest. We expect this situation to continue for some weeks, and any plan for reopening our Churches for public worship must include every precaution to ensure public
gatherings do not create a second wave of contagion, thus squandering the gains made through our sacrifice in these days.

With those realities in mind, I am heartened to announce that the Catholic Bishops of Illinois have reached an agreement with the Office of the Governor on a multi-phase Plan for re-opening our churches for the celebration of the sacraments, private prayer, adoration and Mass. As I share the Plan with you, both by way of an Executive Summary and the full Plan in the attachment, I want to assure you of my prayers for you and your family’s personal, material and spiritual wellbeing. I also express my appreciation to the many people on the archdiocesan staff and in the Office of the Governor for the many hours they have given to designing and fine tuning this agreement. Again, I call on all Catholics to seize this moment to exercise faith-filled citizenship in a way that reflects our deep regard for life, our calling as disciples of Jesus and our love of country.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

[Signature]
Archbishop of Chicago

-enclosures- Go to: https://archchicago.org/coronavirus/reopening
Honestly, there is so much that comes over text messages and e-mails as encouragement and support during these challenging pandemic days, I find it hard to pay attention to it all! Just as I was about to delete another, I paused to take a quick look. I decided this was worth reading, keeping and sharing, and here it is now in my Corner. The old saying is true: things could always be worse -- it’s just a matter of your perspective.

With you a Christian. For you a priest.

Imagine you were born in 1900.

On your 14th birthday, World War I starts and ends on your 18th birthday. 22 million people perish in that war. Later in the year, a Spanish Flu epidemic hits the planet and runs until your 20th birthday. 50 million people die from it in those two years. Yes, 50 million.

On your 29th birthday, the Great Depression begins. Unemployment hits 25%, and the World GDP drops 27%. That runs until you are 33. The country nearly collapses along with the world economy.

When you turn 39, World War II starts. You aren’t even over the hill yet. And don’t try to catch your breath. On your 41st birthday, the United States is fully pulled into WWII. Between your 39th and 45th birthday, 75 million people perish in the war.

Smallpox was epidemic until you were in your 40’s, as it killed 300 million people during your lifetime.

At 50, the Korean War starts. 5 million perish. From your birth, until you are 55 you dealt with the fear of Polio epidemics each summer. You experience friends and family contracting polio and being paralyzed and/or die.

At 55, the Vietnam War begins and doesn’t end for 20 years. 4 million people perish in that conflict. During the Cold War, you lived each day with the fear of nuclear annihilation. On your 62nd birthday, you have the Cuban Missile Crisis, a tipping point in the Cold War. Life on our planet, as we know it, almost ended. When you turn 75, the Vietnam War finally ends.

Think of everyone on the planet born in 1900. How did they endure all of that? When you were a kid in 1985 and didn’t think your 85 year old grandparent understood how hard school was. And how mean that kid in your class was. Yet they survived through everything listed above. Perspective is an amazing art. Refined and enlightening as time goes on.

Let’s try and keep things in perspective. Your parents and/or grandparents were called to endure all of the above. With God’s help, we have the strength to prevail.

Parish Donation Options available through GiveCentral

Again, a heartfelt thank you to all who use GiveCentral or have mailed in or dropped off their Sunday Offertory and Easter donations. During these challenging times, we still need and count on your support. For others, now may be the time to consider using GiveCentral, our online giving option. Sign-up is easy; visit www.stgilesparish.org and click on the blue “givecentral online giving” box on our home page. Then simply follow the detailed, but easy, instructions and link. Or you are now able to text a donation to St. Giles! GiveCentral has set-up a text-to-give number 708-258-1063. Simply text, Donate, to make or set-up Sunday Offertory giving. Text, Easter, to make a special Easter gift. It’s a great way to ensure your donation is received even when you cannot attend Mass, allowing St. Giles consistent cash flow to pay bills and plan for the future. For questions or assistance, contact Sharon in the Parish Office at 708-383-3430, ext. 420 or sbresnahan@stgilesparish.org.

2020 Saint Giles Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)

OPEN MEETING DATES: 6/8, and 8/18
START TIME & LOCATION: 7:30 p.m., 3rd floor Parish Center, 1025 Columbian
PPC HOME PAGE URL: http://www.stgilesparish.org/pastoral-council/
CHAIR: Jim Gates CONTACT: jgates939@gmail.com VICE CHAIR: Maudette Carr
MEMBERS: Pat Carew, Marci Madary, Kathleen Mullaney, Margaret Murphy, Alex Ryan, Maria Samatas, and Ed Siderewicz
We Pray For . . .

Those who are hospitalized or homebound, including: Mary Pat Baubly, Marty Blake, Tim Bock, Jan Brent, Deirdre Buckingham, Luciana Butera, David Campbell, Angela Cary, Paul Chan, Tony Cocco, Thomas Coleman, Anthony Costa, Ann Cyr, Daniel DeMarté, Donna DiGilio, Andrea Dickson, Nancy Abram Donaldson, Paul Frauenfelder, Mary Jane Gage, Vicky Gallermo, Jim Gibson, Laura Gruber, Mary Frances Hegarty, Deacon John Henricks, Paul Hoffman, Annette Hulefeld, Frank Hulefeld, Karl Humowiecki, Tim Kenny, Helen Kiefer, Jason Kuntz, Dorothy Lane, Ann Mackin, Angela Madden, Mary Mamolella, Giuliana Mason, Patricia McDonald, Kathy Nardi, Sister Louise Noesen, Mary Kay Olson, Anne O’Neill, Colin O’Shea, Amelia Patterson, Owen Petrzela, Bob Quane, Joanne Quane, William Rios, Jr., Fr. Ed Salmon, Charles Serpe, Catherine Shilaga, Pat Sikorski, Marianne Tagler, Frank Trankina, Mary Ann Trankina, Kathy Varner, Wendell and Shirley Venerable, Nancy Wesczilt, and Deacon Gerry Zych.

(Some names have been removed from our listing in the Arrow but are continuing to be prayed for through the Prayer Circle. Others have received a Prayer Shawl representing the prayers for healing by the Parish community.)

And for those of our family members and parishioners who have died, especially Norbert Zych, brother of Deacon Gerry Zych, Silvio Meira, father of Luciana DeSilva Meira Butera, and Philip Monaco.

Keeping Stewardship in Mind and Heart.

On this sixth Sunday of Easter, our readings remind us that God must come first in our lives, and that love of God shows itself in concrete actions — this is precisely why the stewardship way of life is so necessary.

Our second reading, from St. Peter challenges us to, “Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts.” In other words, we are to put Christ first above all else in our lives. His role is not merely as Savior of our lives, as significant as that role is — He is to be “Lord” of our lives as well. As His disciples, we are called to make Him ruler of all aspects of our lives — our time, talents and treasure.

The beauty of the stewardship way of life is that it offers us a concrete means to show that Christ truly is Lord of our lives, to “prove” our love, in a manner of speaking, because true love is not mere sentiment. “Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me,” Jesus tells us in our Gospel passage from John.

True love is an act of the will. It requires obedience to all of God’s commandments. This requires courage, humility and deep trust in Him.

But the rewards of this kind of love are indescribably wonderful. Christ tells us Himself, “Whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him.”

Could there be anything more satisfying to live in such a way that the God of the universe is pleased to reveal more and more of Himself to us?

Parish Offerings - We will get through this Together!

Since Holy Week, we’ve continued to look for interesting ways to stay connected during this pandemic. We have added more content for each week besides our weekend Masses via the parish YouTube channel and other social media outlets.

On Monday or Tuesday, you will now find “Your Weekly Retreat,” a mini retreat based on the scripture from the weekend liturgy.

On Wednesdays, we share a personal message from one or more of your fellow parishioners.

“Fridays with Fr. Carl” has recently launched where he will provide a glimpse of what might be coming up the following week or share some good things that are going on around our parish.

Some of this content is embedded in the parish website: www.stgilesparish.org and highlighted in our weekly E-News. The website is a one-stop location to sign up for the parish E-News, see the weekend’s Mass register for GiveCentral’s online parish giving, check out the latest news from the Archdiocese, submit a virtual Prayer Ribbon, learn ways to help the greater community, and to follow us on YouTube, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.
Pope Francis has always had a very special devotion to Mary, Undoer of Knots. In 2015, when he visited the US, outside the chapel of the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul in Philadelphia, a spiritual art installation was created where people could tie white strips of paper with written prayers on them to a latticework. The petitions ranged from healing for themselves or family members, world peace, the elimination of poverty, protection for the environment, the preservation of families and thousands of other requests to "undo the knots" of these issues.

While we are not able to recreate this exactly, we are blessed with many healthy, young trees in the parish courtyard and would like to encourage all parishioners, and welcome all others, to write a prayer petition on a strip of ribbon or paper (any color) and stop by the courtyard to tie these on a branch of one of the trees there. Please make sure to give other visitors a safe social distance while leaving your petition. We'd like to include these petitions collectively in each Mass going forward and keep everyone updated with photos of our growing prayer space. #togetherstgiles

**Virtual Prayer Ribbons:** Family and friends who don't live in the area may leave a virtual prayer ribbon by visiting: www.stgilesparish.org/prayer-ribbon
Teacher’s Appreciation Week!

This year, students could not celebrate their teachers at school BUT many students reached out to them in other ways. Some students drew a card or emailed a gift card. Other students recorded a special video “hug” for a teacher. With the help of the St. Giles PTO, these videos were compiled and emailed to teachers as a special memory. It was still a great week for our teachers!

We miss these smiling faces! An enormous thank you goes out to our SGS teachers for all they did at school this year and continue to do for students, virtually! Our students are blessed to learn from them every day -- they are caring, deeply talented and incredibly dedicated. Be safe, happy and healthy as we look forward to being together next year!
In anticipation of creating a more robust communication system, we are launching “Here I Am – Keeping Connected @ St. Giles” with a simple Google form that we are asking all parishioners to fill out so that we can make sure we have the most current information for all members of our faith family.

By answering these few simple questions, it will help us ensure you are receiving important information as it becomes available and allow the parish records to be updated as appropriate. There is also a final question that allows you to put forward anything you’d like held in prayer by all of us in community.

Thank you in advance for taking a few minutes to complete this!

You can copy this URL to your browser to submit the form:
https://forms.gle/fVYqsbPQxxCUrYEW7

Or, visit our website:
http://www.stgilesparish.org/keeping-connected/

Thank you to all those who donated last week, allowing us to deliver to TWO pantries this week. Please continue to bring donations of canned or shelf-stable dry goods and paper products to the covered bins located at the back door on the north side of the Parish Center at 1025 Columbian. Members of Love in Action and the staff are regularly emptying the bins and bringing the donations inside to prepare them for delivery.

Items that are needed:
- Canned fruits and vegetables,
- Canned or dried beans,
- Mac-N-Cheese, Rice, Pasta,
- Oatmeal and breakfast cereals,
- Canned tuna, chicken, and other meats/fish,
- Canned soups, stews, chili, pasta sauces,
- Toilet Paper and paper towels,
- Peanut butter,
- Powdered milk,
- Personal care products such as soap, toothpaste, deodorant and shampoo

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, members of the youth ministry program have felt inspired to put Love into Action by engaging in the work that is already being done to collect and deliver food to the local pantries we regularly support: St. Martin DePorres, Vital Bridges and Santa Maria Addolorata, along with Catholic Charities in Cicero and Fraternité Notre Dame in Austin.

We will need help making these deliveries and ALL who feel they can safely participate in this are welcome! MASKS ARE REQUIRED. We need assistance preparing for and making deliveries. If you are interested in getting involved, EMAIL US at:

stgilesloveinaction@gmail.com

Thanks to all of you for engaging in this ministry. As we further develop this program, we will keep you all updated and appreciate your prayers and support.