

March 27, 2020

Dear Parishioners of St. Mary's,

How you doing?! Don't know about you, but I'm starting to lose a sense of time! What day is it? What time is it? How long have we been living like this?! This is, to say the least, unprecedented. We are all living through a period of "shelter-at-home" with schools closed and the normal routines of our lives having changed significantly. And with these restrictions has come the additional suspension of public Masses until further notice.

Through the generous work of Joel Noronha, we are recording Sunday Mass as well as a weekday Mass. These Masses are being posted on our parish website ([stmaryedw.org](http://stmaryedw.org)) in addition to the St. Mary School facebook page (also see our website). United in prayer, we nonetheless long for the time when we can actually see one another face to face!

Our parish and school continue to function and provide for the spiritual and educational needs of fellow parishioners and students. Our school teachers and staff have been providing instruction to our students on a daily basis via media platforms. Our parish office, though closed for the most part, continues to take in calls, receive messages and provide assistance. We continue to live! And, like every other household, we continue to have expenses! Thank you to all who continue to contribute electronically as well as mailing in contributions or dropping contributions off at our parish office/rectory mailbox.

We can also accept new automatic transfers from bank accounts (ACH). If you would like to set up an automatic transfer, please fill out an ACH form that can be found on our parish website ([stmaryedw.org](http://stmaryedw.org)) and click the ACH form icon. Be sure to circle which date you would like the automatic debit transaction to take place (the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> of the month). Send the form along with a voided check to St. Mary's Parish at the address listed below and we will have the transfers set up.

St. Mary's Parish

1802 Madison Avenue

Edwardsville, IL 62025

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our parish office or myself (office/618-656-4857 or [email/jallasrj@stmaryedw.org](mailto:jallasrj@stmaryedw.org)) In addition, please check our parish website for the weekly bulletin as well as other information.

In these past days, we have all seen so many acts of generosity and simple goodness, reflective of God's continual graciousness. The stories shared now and through all this are enriching and encouraging. A quote I'm sure you are familiar with has come to mind in the midst of all this: "Faith is the bird that sings when the dawn is still dark."

Let us continue to hold one another in prayer in this most unusual of times. Be assured of mine and thank you for your continued generous support!

Peace in Christ,

*Fr. Bob*