



## The Catholic Churches of

St. Mary, Upsala

St. Edward, Elmdale

St. Francis of Assisi, Freeport

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I hope that this letter finds you and your family safe and well during this challenging time. When faced with a crisis there can sometimes be the tendency to circle our wagons and limit our range of focus or concern. This may especially be the case in these days as we have been asked to greatly limit our movements and social contact in an effort to stem the tide of the virus.

These are directions that we should heed as best we are able. Within this framework, my encouragement is that we continue live our lives as Catholics as best we can. The call to Pray, Fast, and Almsgive during Lent are taking on a special character this year. It is a unique opportunity we have to unite ourselves more closely to Cross of Christ during this world-wide crisis. It is also an opportunity to continue to demonstrate our faith with our acts of love. As Catholics we are called to be lights for the world to see. This is especially the case when there seems to be so much darkness.

### **Prayer:**

I understand how difficult it has been for many of you that public Masses have been temporarily suspended, and that even the churches themselves have been locked up for the time being. The Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith, but right now our call is to do the best we can within the framework we are given. Mass will still be live-streamed online. For those that do not have internet, Mass can be found on the radio and on TV. A list of resources has been provided in this letter to help you in your life of prayer.

Confessions will still be by appointment only. You can still remain anonymous behind a screen if you desire.

Adoration: I will expose the Blessed Sacrament through the window of the entryway at St Mary's. You may face your vehicle toward the Blessed Sacrament, but please stay in your vehicle. Also, please be very careful coming in and out of the parking lot.

The schedule: April 1: 7-9pm. Apr 2: 3-5pm. Apr 3: 7-9pm. Apr 7: 11-1pm. Apr 8: 7-9pm. Apr 9: 3-5pm

**Charity:**

The office is still operational and thus we are still counting on your generosity for the collection.

1. Automatic Withdrawal – If you are interested, you can visit the website and print off the form you need, or call the office and we can send you the form.
2. Drop your envelopes at Stearns Bank in Upsala
3. Mail in to office at Church of St. Edward, St. Francis, or St. Mary, PO Box 249, Upsala, MN 56384.

We are trying to reach out to those who need help, especially those who are homebound or are unemployed. If you know of someone, or you yourself, would like a phone call for some company, financial help, food or personal care items, someone to go shopping for them, or heating needs, please call the office. You can remain anonymous. We will put a list together, and someone will do what is needed. If you would like to volunteer to do something for someone, like go shopping, please contact the office as well.

**Resources:**

1. The website will be continually updated with information as we have it. Also, under Catholic Links, there are numerous sights to help you grow in your faith.
2. Phone Apps
  - a. Relevant Radio
  - b. K-YES AM 1180
  - c. FORMED
  - d. EWTN
3. Radio
  - a. AM960 KLTF – Mass at 9am Sunday mornings
  - b. AM1180 – K-YES/Relevant Radio
4. TV
  - a. Diocesan Mass on KSTC-45 at 11am Sunday mornings
  - b. EWTN

A parishioner shared a special prayer idea with me the other day. It is something that is included in this letter. It is the spiritual adoption of those dying, particularly those who are dying alone. Join us in praying a Divine Mercy Chaplet for these people. I have included a small prayer card that I touched to the relics of St Faustina at her tomb in Krakow, Poland. On the website, there is an opportunity to keep track of the number of Divine Mercy Chaplets said. Go to the home page on the website and click on Divine Mercy image framed in white and your Chaplet will be added to the tally.

Know of my prayers for all of you and your families during this difficult time. Let us be united in prayer for a speedy end to this crisis, for the health and well-being of all people, and for those who are greatly affected by this virus in any way.

God bless!

Fr Theis

An opportunity to serve during the pandemic.

LifeSiteNews was forwarded a touching proposal conceived by Fr. Philip Kemmy, a priest in Ireland who suggests that we each commit to praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet each day with a very specific intention in mind.

Fr. Kemmy explained:

Earlier this evening I was reading a news report on the SkyNews website which, quoting a doctor in a hospital in Italy, had the headline: "Everyone Dies Alone." It was a very sobering and tragically sad report, describing how, because they have to be isolated, those suffering and slowly dying from Covid19 meet their end without the comfort and consolation of their relatives and loved ones. The medical staff do what they can, but they are overwhelmed by the task that lies before them. When I read that headline, immediately I was stirred to begin this little project.

Inspired by a scene in the Diary of St. Faustina, where she was spiritually transported by the Lord in order to pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy at the bedside of a dying man she did not know, I would like to suggest that we would each commit to praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet each day for the days ahead to spiritually place ourselves beside one of the poor unfortunate men and women who are dying alone in hospitals all over the world because of this virus, some of whom are perhaps not well prepared spiritually for their earthly end. If families were to pray it then several dying persons would be spiritually adopted with the one prayer of the Chaplet.

Praying the Chaplet for the dying, we will petition Jesus to enfold them in his Merciful Love in their final hours and grant them a strong experience of his consoling presence before they take their leave of this life. This would be a great act of mercy and love for those who are victims of this virus and who are approaching their death.