

SAINT CECILIA PARISH

334 FIFTEENTH STREET SW, P.O. BOX 700
DEMOTTE, IN 46310

MAY 10, 2020 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER



From the Desk of Bishop Doherty

Wednesday, May 6, 2020
Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we continue in this Easter Season, may the radiance of our Risen Christ bless you in faith, hope and charity.

The Catholic bishops of Indiana announced today, May 6, that across the state we will begin resuming public liturgies by May 30, the Vigil of Pentecost. There will be limitations based on public health information and on the need for planning for an orderly restart. Each diocese will have its particular rules published as they apply to needs and circumstances in that diocese, and ours should be public in the next couple of days.

We are grateful for our governor's statements and his presentation of stages for relaxing social distancing. We are mindful of the state's guidelines. Worship and ministry present unique challenges, and out of great care for health and safety of our churches and our civic communities, we will have our own timelines. We estimate that there are about 130,000 Catholics across our 24 Indiana counties, and it takes a lot of planning to direct that amount of traffic.

All of us have a deep desire for open church buildings, daily public Mass, and the availability of Confession. However, this announcement and our initial efforts aim at re-establishing public Saturday-Sunday worship. These Masses will fulfil requirements of social distancing and the need for face masks, hand sanitizers, and adequate cleaning of worship spaces between Masses.

The dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass automatically is given to anyone who is sick. And of course, you should not come to church if you have an illness. The dispensation is extended until August 15 this year.

We are in a pandemic. Our knowledge about it grows from day to day, and the information we get will tell us when we can advance and when we have to pull back. What works in a parish of 100 families may not work in a parish of one thousand or four thousand households. So we have to be patient with ourselves and with our neighboring parishes and try our best.

I ask for God's grace and healing. May God bless you all. May God take care of you all.

In Christ's Peace,
Bishop Timothy Doherty

THE KNIGHT'S OF COLUMBUS

The annual K of C State Convention and its raffle has been postponed until June 19-21. Parishioners who purchased raffle tickets from a Knight need to keep your tickets until the raffle is held the weekend of June 19-21.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart, be acceptable in your sight, Lord, my rock and my redeemer

Need Prayer Intentions?

Parishioners of St Cecilia will pray for you and your special intentions. Call Gen Mestrich 956-3020. You do not have to give your name. Call Gen if you can help with the prayer line.



LADIES' SODALITY COOKBOOK

Do you have one yet?? Our cookbook is on sale now for only \$5! Contact Fr. Dennis or Debra Opolski



REMEMBER TO SAVE YOUR POP TABS!



We are still collecting to reach A RECORD 4TH MILLION. So keep turning in those tabs.



VISIT & LIKE US ON FACEBOOK AT

"St. Cecilia Catholic Church"
And check our website, stceciliademotte.org



For prior bulletins, other parish information, as well as links to the Diocesan & Vatican Websites!

From the Pastor's desk:

Dampened Spirits Can't Catch Fire

A woman was full of miseries, so she came to tell her pastor all about it. "My children hate me. Nobody ever comes to visit me. My arthritis is getting worse. The sun hasn't been out in weeks. And this morning, the milk went sour." Then her face brightened. "But you know, Father, I've had this terrible headache all week and now it's gone!"

The pastor sighed, "No, my dear. Your headache isn't gone. Now I've got it!"

----- Theological Reflection -----

Do you "get" headaches or "give" them? The ideal answer, of course, would be "neither." But that would probably be a lie.

Jesus offers us an alternative to giving and getting headaches. His whole life, everything he did, shows us a much happier way of living with one another: He fed people and healed them; he comforted and forgave them as often as they needed it. And he helped people break free of whatever was robbing them of life.

Everything Jesus did worked together to create inside his followers a space that was spiritually and psychologically safe, calm and secure; a space that was conducive to growing and changing. Remember a few weeks ago, that gospel about that woman caught in the act of adultery? Jesus created a safe spot for her, where she could get about repairing her life instead of wasting it dodging rocks and repeating the same old mistakes. He gave her a second chance at life, and he did it without any grand show of force, just ten softly spoken words: "Let him who is without sin cast the first stone."

In this weekend's gospel, Jesus says, "If you believe in me, you will do the work I do." This is the work he's talking about: Creating safe, secure, happy places for one another in which the really important work of life - transformation and big family bonding - can happen. Fearful, insecure, unhappy people have neither the energy nor the heart to face themselves or to work at growing into God's likeness, much less to build communion. They expend every last drop of their energy on simply surviving.

Just surviving is not living. We can help one another get a life in the same way Jesus did - by recognizing the powerful effect we have on one another, for good or ill, and by consciously deciding to make even our smallest choices add up into safe, secure, happy spaces where every member of our big family can grow whole.

For example, as we are at Mass. Are we creating some kind of space for one another? The look on our faces (Have you told your face you're happy lately?), the way we sit and stand and manage our kneelers, the way we make room for others, the way we sing or don't sing, the way we respond to the prayers (mumble, mumble). All this can lift the spirits of the persons nearby, or it can dampen those spirits. (And dampened spirits never catch fire!) Every moment of life is like that. We're either strangling life or setting it free, either helping people to take heart or causing them to lose heart. No waking moment is just neutral.

Spirits don't grow and flourish when they're under siege, or angry, or focused on self-defense and mere survival. So why not do what Jesus always did: Use what we've got, a long chain of tiny moments in which the smallest of our choices can add up, one-by-one, and can help create safe inner spaces, untouched by fear or anger, places where growing whole can happen. It's so simple. So, let's strive to do it for one another as often as possible.

Fr. Dennis

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THIS SUNDAY'S MASS

CAN BE LIVESTREAMED AT 10:30 AM

FROM OUR FACE BOOK PAGE

ST. CECILIA CATHOLIC CHURCH

No Public Masses Until Further Notice!

GOOD NEIGHBOR FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

Due to an increased demand for food St. Cecilia is requesting donations for our local food pantry. The time frame for these donations is through the end of May. Thank you for considering those in need during the pandemic.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Are sponsoring a Red Cross Blood Drive, Sat., May 16TH from 7:30AM until 12:30PM. Please call 1-800-Red Cros (733-2767)



To schedule your donation appointment.

GIVING

St. Cecilia is a medium sized parish with many ministries that continue to need your merciful financial support. Please don't forget St. Cecilia when you pay your bills so we can pay ours.

Online and Text giving are now available.

The link to Online giving is on the website: www.stceciliademotte.org

To set up text giving: Text StCecilia to 73256

PARISH STEWARDSHIP FROM LAST WEEK

Envelopes: \$4,010.00 Loose Cash: \$100.00
Building Fund: \$518.00 Online Giving: \$780.00
Good Friday: \$15.00 Easter Offering: \$50.00

TOTAL DEPOSIT LAST WEEK: \$5,473.00