



*Our Lady of Sorrows Church*

March 8, 2020

From the Pastor's Desk

My Dear People:

**CORONA VIRUS:** Bishop Baker has written to all the priests, deacons, and parish administrators that though the U.S. has experienced minimum cases, it is contagious and precautions should be taken. The Bishop outlined five areas of care to avoid any more contagion that necessary.

The one area mandated throughout the Diocese until further notice is:

**IN THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM THE DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION FROM THE CHALICE IS TO BE SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

The next four are four strong suggestions:

1. All ministers of the host are to wash hands before Mass or use alcohol based anti-bacterial solutions before and after distributing Communion.
2. If one is sick or is experiencing symptoms of sickness, Catholics are not obliged to attend Mass. (Out of charity, they should not attend).
3. At the discretion of the pastor, we should suspend physical touch in the exchange of the sign of peace. So in charity to one another and to help not spread germs here at OLS, we will only wave to one another with the sign of peace.
4. Communion on the hand and on the tongue remains at the discretion of the Communicant.

**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS:** In these days, we find that Catholic schools are struggling for survival because of financial strains. When I started teaching at McGill, the all boys Catholic high school, my salary was \$50.00 a month. I remember when one of the senior priests told me that I was made a fulltime religious teacher "for economic reasons". With the Brothers of Sacred Heart and Priest teaching, the tuition was so

affordable. At one time as I was in the middle of my career of 26 years of fulltime teaching, we had 6 Priests teaching at John Carroll. Only by the grace of God, in 1983 when I left John Carroll, I was the last of the fulltime teachers. The dividends were enormously great, ending up the pastor of this great parish and having former students making this a great parish. Yes, former students like Lynne Stella, Mary Jane Dorn, Angie Dunston, Christine LaRussa and those many great teachers at the school such as Michelle Alesce and Mary Margaret Barksdale and so many others such as Kim Bourgeois. Today so many nuns have left the classroom and so have the priests.

It is not just the teachings of the Church, but it is the Catholic atmosphere. Weekly student Masses, Stations of the Cross, holy pictures and images and so many other students sharing the same faith. One of the great impressions our students receive from the March for Life in Washington is to see thousands of Catholic teenagers as devout Catholics.

In the beginning, I was not a champion of the "Beacon of Hope" school program. Then the principal of Holy Family Middle School told me that so many of the students come from homes where there is never a mention of God or religion. It became an adolescent's first connection with the reality of our eternal destiny and the very reason of our existence.

In short, some of our schools need some extra help from the Diocese. The state was giving more help to private schools through various scholarship granting organizations but it seems there is a real cut-back because of budget restraints. Since we have stopped the second collection for Beacon of Hope and the second collection for the St. John Vianney, the Bishop has asked for a second collection for schools that would close without some extra help.

OUR LADY OF SORROWS SCHOOL: I thank all those who have ever contributed to the school foundation. Most especially, I thank God that somehow this foundation exists. It is giving \$500,000 a year to the school in order that we do not raise the tuition. I have stated in public that as long as I am pastor, we will not raise the tuition. Roger McLaughlin was my buddy in starting the foundation and his investments were such that we keep OLS school in tip top shape after the renovations by the Angelo Bruno family in 1996. The Principal and teachers are A-1.

Catholic schools “evangelize”. If we don’t make new Catholics, we make better Christians and that is a huge accomplishment. We thank the parents and all those who help make the OLS school the great school that it is. The school foundation also furnishes extra financial aid for those who qualify.

Because so many of our youth do not attend Catholic schools, we pour endless funds into supporting our Youth Ministry, and we thank those parents who support us in helping our youth learn the faith. They get to know that there are so many others struggling in their journey of faith, as we all try to move to the eternal kingdom.

With prayers and blessings,  
Father Muller

**Stations of the Cross** will be held each Friday of Lent at  
**6:00 p.m.**

**The Lenten Penance Service is scheduled for Thursday, March 12, at 7 p.m. in the Church**

## **CHAPEL OF OUR SAVIOR**

The Chapel needs permanent Committed Adorers for:

**Monday at 10 AM (Share with Partner)**  
**Friday at 8:00 AM (With Partner)**  
**Friday at 1:00 PM (With Partner)**  
**Friday at 11 PM (Adorer Needed)**  
**Saturday at 11:00 AM (With Partner)**  
**Saturday at 11 PM (Share with Partner)**

Our goal is to have at least 2 people on each hour. These are the hours needed but do select an hour that best fits your schedule. Please call Mary Claire Brouillette at 871-2909 or Trudy Carpri at 643-0248.



### *Mass Intentions*

Monday, Mar. 9	Special Intention Phillip Alfano Fr. Robert O’Sullivan
Tuesday, Mar. 10	Joe Azbec Mary Louise Hanna SI Stephen Peter Rumore & Family
Wednesday, Mar. 11	Sarah Carney Dianne Cusimano Fontana Lena Carruba
Thursday, Mar. 12	Special Intention Phillip Alfano SI Jude & Claudia Tombrello
Friday, Mar. 13	Maddalena Mastropasqua Mary George Holt Josephine Sicola
Saturday, Mar. 14	Donors to OLS School Foundation Morris Princiotta Jr. Lena Lucia
Sunday, Mar. 15	People of the Parish Morris Princiotta Jr. SI Jude & Claudia Tombrello

**Noon Mass is celebrated each weekday during Lent.**

### **Pray for the Sick**

Vita D’Amico, Mary Ann Huie, Charlie Kai Wadsworth, Melanie Gilchrist, Kennie Skellie, Buddy DiChiara

**Everyone is invited** to attend Adult Education on Sunday, March 8. Our speaker



will be Friar Rafael of Jesus of Nazareth of the Fraternity Poor of Jesus Christ. The gathering

begins in the Parish Hall at 9:45 a.m. with fellowship and light refreshments and the class begins at 10 a.m. Childcare is available in the nursery.

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**The date for V.I.P. has been moved to Tuesday, March 10**, due to the Primary Election on March 3. Mass begins at 11 a.m. in the Parish Hall, followed by lunch and bingo.

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*Dear Parishioners,*

*You are all cordially invited to participate in Fr. Balta's Silver Jubilee Thanksgiving Mass on March 15, 2020. The procession will start from the Family Life Center at 2:45 p.m. and the Holy Mass will begin at 3 p.m. in the Church. A reception will follow in the Family Life Center. All are invited and your presence adds and doubles our Joy.*

**OLS Mother's Day Out** will hold registration on Friday, March 13, from 8:30 to 10 a.m. This registration is for our summer session and for the 2020-21 school year. Registration is first come first served, with members of OLS Parish having priority. Please call Angie at 205-871-3253 for more information.

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**The Knights of Columbus** will be holding a blood drive on Sunday, March 8, in the Parish Hall. They will be cooking a hot breakfast for

all donors and their families. The American Red Cross continues to face shortages of the most needed blood types. We hope to see you there.

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**"Am I not your Mother? Is there anything else you need?" *Nurturing Our Families in Faith with Mary.*** The OLS Altar Sodality invites all ladies of the parish to join us for a Day of Recollection on Friday, March 13. The day will begin at 8:30 a.m. with Adoration, Confessions at 8:45-9:45, Rosary at 9 a.m., and Mass at 10. Lunch will follow in the Parish Hall. Our speaker will be Sr. Mary Anthony from Casa Maria. She will reflect on Our Lady's words to Juan Diego in 1531. Nursery will be available. Please sign up through your guilds to attend and to reserve childcare. If you do not belong to a guild, please email Patti Kyle at [plkylestudio@gmail.com](mailto:plkylestudio@gmail.com).

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### **St. Joseph Altar 2020**

This year the Italian American Society will join Our Lady of Sorrows in celebrating the feast day of St. Joseph. The St. Joseph Altar will be held in the Parish Hall after the 5 p.m. Mass on Saturday, March 14. All are invited. We will need donations of meatless dishes, vegetables, desserts, etc. In addition to the preparation of food, we will need volunteers for setting up tables, kitchen duty and clean up. Sign-up sheets will be available in the vestibule beginning March 1. Monetary donations are also welcome. For additional information, please contact Marie Swift at 956-6323 or Fran Robertson at 529-3336. Please leave a message if no answer.

***What's Going on in Youth Ministry?***

Edge and LifeTeen meet on Sundays from 7-8:30 in the Family Life Center. All 6-12th graders are invited to grow in community with their Church family!

Check out [olsyouth.com](http://olsyouth.com) for our complete Spring schedules!

**Life Teen High School**

**DON'T FORGET:** March 8, is Daylight Savings. Set your clocks AHEAD 1 hour!

