

The Church of the Blessed Sacrament

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER MAY 10, 2020



*O Blessed Mother, on this day when
we honor all mothers,
we turn to you.*

*We thank the Lord whom you serve
for the great gift of motherhood.
Never has it been known that
anyone who sought
your intercession was left
unaided by grace.*

*Dear Mother, thank you for your
"Yes" to the invitation of
the angel which brought heaven to
earth and changed human history.
You opened yourself to God's word
and the Word was made flesh and
dwelt among us.*

*Dear mother, intercede for all of our
mothers. Ask your Divine Son to
give them the grace of surrendered
love so that they could join with you
in giving their own "Fiat."*

*May they find daily strength to say
yes to the call to the sacrificial love-
the very heart*

of the vocation of motherhood.

*May their love and witness be a
source of great inspiration for
all of us called to follow your Son.*

*On this Mothers day, Mother of the
Word Incarnate, pray for us who
have recourse to you...*

*In the Name of the Father, the Son
and the Holy Spirit.
Amen*

*Fr. Benny and the staff of Blessed
Sacrament, wish a Blessed and Happy
Mother's Day to all Mothers!*

**The Parish Offices and Church are closed until further notice.
Please call the Parish office if you have any questions and leave a message.
We will return your call as soon as possible.**

Our Lady of Good Health, Pray for us!

"In our daily life, we strive to know, love, and serve God and others, as Catholic disciples of Christ."

2119 Stillwater Avenue East Saint Paul, Minnesota 55119-3508 Website: blessedsacramentsp.org
Phone: 651-738-0677 Fax: 651-738-6492 Check us out on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/blessedsacramentsp
To Register: Please pick up a New Parishioner Packet in the Gathering Space or call the Parish Office.

Church of the Blessed Sacrament

'Have Faith in God and also in Jesus.'

Fr. Benny Mekhatt CFIC

This year, we have experienced a unique way of celebrating the second part of Lent, Holy Week and the Easter Season. As we walk through the days of uncertainty and confusion, on this fifth Sunday of Easter, Jesus comes before us assuring that He is 'the way, the truth and the life.' We hear the consoling words from our Lord, "do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me." If a tiny virus can do this much damage to the entire world, imagine what a mustard seed size faith can do in our lives. Keep faith in God through all times, especially during these days and He will carry us out to the shore of safety and peace. Today's readings tell us how the early Church accepted the challenge of keeping Jesus' memory alive by remaining a dynamic Christian community, bearing witness to Christ by their unity, fidelity in worship and spirit of loving, humble service. Jesus is the Way to God, the Truth to be accepted, and the Life to be shared and lived.

Today we also celebrate beautiful Mother's Day to thank our mothers, to pray and honor them by offering our mothers on the altar of God. This year, it is completely a different experience for me, as I celebrate it for the first time after the death of my mother in last December. I am glad that I had the opportunity to verbalize and express my gratitude and love to her while she was still with me. So that I can still see her smiling face gazing towards me from above. This is a special day for us to admit gratefully the fact that none of us is able to return, in the same measure, all the love that our mothers have given us. Their influence on their children is so great that it affects the children throughout their lives. Our mothers not only gave us birth but nursed us, nurtured us, trained us in their religious beliefs and practices, taught us good manners and ideal behavior, disciplined us as best as they could and made us good citizens of our country, our Church and our society. The word "mom" is synonymous with sacrificial, *agápe* love in its purest form, as commanded by Jesus in His farewell speech: "*Love one another as I have loved you.*" Hence, let us lavish our love on our mothers and express our gratitude for them in the form of fervent prayers offered for them before God. It is so opportune for us to celebrate Mother's Day in the month of May, a month dedicated in honor of Blessed Virgin Mary, our heavenly Mother. Today let us acknowledge the truth that we have two mothers: our earthly mother and our Heavenly Mother, the Mother of Jesus. The Catholic Church proclaims the great nobility of the Mother of Jesus, Mary most holy, and presents her as the supreme model for all mothers. On this Mother's Day, presenting all mothers on the altar, let us sing the beautiful song, "*Gentle woman, peaceful dove, teach us wisdom, teach us love.*" Let us show our love and appreciation for both of our mothers and let us ask our Heavenly Mother to take care of our earthly mothers. Please remember to pray the Holy Rosary at home especially during this month of May. I encourage all the mothers to take lead on it.



Mass has been suspended and for almost forty plus days we have been under the "Stay at Home Order" in Minnesota! I miss seeing you all in the church and I am sure you, too, feel the same, not being able to worship our Lord together as one family. Last week, we received the message, both from the civil and ecclesiastical authority, of an extension of the "Stay at Home Order" and the suspension of the public celebration of the Mass. But the letter that we received from our beloved Archbishop Bernard Hebda, is so encouraging and inspiring. He mentioned about three phases in the reopening of the churches for public worship and by the middle of May, we are hoping to begin phase two where we will be able to slowly come back to the church, of course with certain precautions and restrictions to prevent further spread of the corona virus. I am hoping that we will be able to accommodate up to 50-60 people in church for each Mass. If there is more demand, surely, I am willing to offer additional Masses for the weekend. Let us look forward with much hope and enthusiasm to return to the public celebration of the sacraments and other ministries in our little church. I am also hoping to reopen our Adoration Chapel, the hallmark of Blessed Sacrament Parish. I will discuss the possibilities with the staff and the leadership team and will let you know soon.

Let us offer our Eucharistic celebrations on Mother's Day weekend for all the mothers in our congregation, whether they are alive here or have gone for their eternal reward. As you know, there will be adoration going on in the church from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm on Sunday and there will be an **opportunity to receive a blessing with the Holy Eucharist at 1:00 pm in the parking lot**. It will be a drive through blessing. If you are interested, you are welcome to come and receive a blessing, especially all the mothers on this special day.

✠ Confession and Holy Communion are available by appointment.

✠ If you and your family would like to attend one of the Private Masses Fr. Benny celebrates, please give us a call or send an email and we will get back to you with any openings.

Ways to Watch/Listen to Mass

Even with the suspension of Masses, as Catholic faithful we still have an obligation to "Keep Holy the Sabbath."

Please choose an option:

INTERNET: blessedsacramentsp.org click on the "Watch Mass" Or Facebook/blessedsacramentsp

Or YouTube: **Church of Blessed Sacrament, St. Paul, MN**

TV: Diocese of St. Cloud: Sundays, 11am on KSTC-TV/45

St. Olaf, Minneapolis: MCN Cable Channel 6, Sundays at 8pm

Diocese of Sioux Falls: Anytime via Facebook or Youtube

Radio: Relevant Radio 1330am: Sundays at 9am

Personal Prayer Time & Adoration Time

The church will be available for private/personal prayer

Monday - Friday from 9:00 am - Noon.

Eucharistic Adoration will be available in the main church on Sunday from 10am-1pm.

When you are at the front door, please press the buzzer and someone will let you in. Only a maximum of 10 people will be allowed inside at one time.

It is getting closer to two months that the public celebration of the

Prayer to Send your Guardian Angel to Mass

O Holy Angel at my side, Go to church for me.
Kneel in my place, at Holy Mass, where I desire to be.
At Offertory, in my stead, take all I am and own
and place it as a sacrifice upon the Altar Throne.
At Holy Consecration's bell, adore with Seraph's love,
my Jesus hidden in the Host, come down from Heaven above.
Then pray for those I dearly love, and those who cause me grief.
That Jesus' Blood may cleanse all hearts, and suffering souls relieve.
And when the priest Communion takes, oh, bring my Lord to me,
That His sweet Heart may rest on mine and I his temple be.
Pray that this Sacrifice Divine, may mankind's sins efface;
Then bring me "Jesus" blessing home, The pledge of every grace.
Amen

Financial Information

I wanted to share some contribution statistics with the parish. We currently have 470 parishioner families registered in the parish. Of this number:

- **47 families (or 10%)** regularly make electronic contributions either by EFT the first of the month or have started using the DONATE NOW button on our website.
- **210 families (or 44%)** are mailed out contribution envelopes since our records show they have made contributions last year other than via the electronic method
- **213 families (or 46%)** contribute either by the passing of the collection basket or possibly not at all since we have no way to register who is contributing cash in the collection basket

It is understandable that our "loose plate" collection amount now is down from a year ago; however even before COVID-19 struck our plate contributions were down below budget numbers. Our contributions via the collection envelopes has remained strong. We are truly amazed at the generosity of our parishioners who have been sending in their contribution envelopes during the pandemic in our country. If you are not currently doing so, please consider making a routine contribution to help financially support your parish's ongoing financial needs. When sending in your contribution please include your name (if sending in cash) so can record your contribution into our system and take steps to have contribution envelopes sent out to you. Of course if you prefer you can always go online to use the DONATE NOW button, or you can call us and we can have your contribution electronically sent to us on the first of the month.

Note: Last week we had a parishioner take the time & trouble to mail in a 1-dollar donation even though it cost her a 55-cent stamp. This was very touching gesture to us. If this parishioner can do this, then maybe other parishioners who currently have not been regular contributors might be moved to send in a contribution since we are not certain when we will be able to come together again to worship the Lord. Remember, no amount is ever too small.

May you all be rewarded with blessings for any contribution you can make to help keep our parish going. Expect blessings. John Florin

Prayer of Spiritual Communion

"My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament.
I love you above all things and I desire you with all my heart.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.
I embrace you as if you were already in my heart
and unite myself to you completely.
Please do not let me ever be separated from you."



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PARISH ADMINISTRATION 651-738-0677

Rev. Benny Mekkatt, Pastor ext. 11
John Florin, Business Administrator ext. 10
Joy Hoffman, Administrative Coordinator ext. 12
Deacon Jerry Saladin.....952-607-9636

PASTORAL MINISTRY 651-738-0677

Carol McKenna, Parish Nurseext. 15

FAITH FORMATION 651-738-0677

Connie Hill, Director..... ext. 14

MUSIC

Jan Meulemans, Director.....651-307-7865

PRAYER LINE

Please call Carol McKenna.....651-492-2778

PARISH COUNCIL: parishcouncil@blessedsacramentsp.org

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BAPTISM - Participation in the Baptism preparation program is a prerequisite for Baptism. Schedule with the Parish Office.

RECONCILIATION- Daily: M-F by appointment

& Saturday Drive Thru 3:00-3:45 pm

MATRIMONY- Make arrangements with the pastor at least six months before the date.

ANointing OF THE SICK - Please call the parish office if you or a family member is going to be hospitalized. Also, if you are home-bound and wish to receive the Eucharist or a friendly visit, please call the parish office.

LOW-GLUTEN HOSTS ARE AVAILABLE- Please come to the Sacristy before Mass to arrange to receive one.

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- Blessed Sacrament Adoration, Suspended until further notice
- The Rosary is said just prior to all Masses.

Sunday, May 10

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 6:1-7/1 Pt 2:4-9/Jn 14:1-12

Parish Mass

Joshua Ewald

Monday, May 11

Easter Weekday

Acts 14:5-18/Jn 14:21-26

Tuesday, May 12

Easter Weekday/Sts. Nereus & Achilleus, Martyrs; St. Pancras, Martyr

Acts 14:19-28/Jn 14:27-31a

† Fr. James Gavin

Wednesday, May 13

Easter Weekday/Our Lady of Fatima

Acts 15:1-6/Jn 15:1-8

Mother Marie Ange, OCD

Thursday, May 14

Saint Matthias, Apostle

Acts 1:15-17, 20-26/Jn 15:9-17

Joe Bianconi & Extended Family

Friday, May 15

Easter Weekday/Saint Isidore

Acts 15:22-31/Jn 15:12-17

† Rev. John P. Fitzpatrick

Saturday, May 16

Easter Weekday

Acts 16:1-10/Jn 15:18-21 (Morning Readings)

† Bernhard Drutschmann

Sunday, May 17

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17/1 Pt 3:15-18/Jn 14:15-21

Parish Mass

Joshua Ewald

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SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

May 3– May 10

All Public Masses and other events are suspended until further notice!

Other Schedule changes:

- Drive thru sacrament of Reconciliation available on Saturday 3:00 - 3:45 PM and on Sunday 11 - 12 noon
- Livestream Mass on Saturday at 4:00 PM and on Sunday at 9:00 am
- Eucharistic Adoration in the Main Church Sunday 10am-1pm
- If you would be so kind as to send in a photo via email to Joy (jimhoffman@blessedsacramentsp.org) with a note as to where you normally sit in church, Father would like to post the pictures as a reminder of all his beautiful parishioners while he is offering Mass.

FINANCE

Gifts of Treasure

No Information available at time of publication.

How can you send us your contribution?

We have had a number of parishioners asking how they can send in their contributions. Please note that you are able to mail in your envelopes since we are picking up our mail from the post office and we are able to process your generous contributions. You also have the option to go on to our website @ blessedsacramentsp.org and use the “DONATE NOW” button. Finally, if you wish to have your contributions automatically sent in to our bank the first of the month simply call John Florin and he can get the required information from you over the phone.

We are closely watching the financial picture for the parish to be sure we can continue to meet our payroll obligations as well as cover our essential expenses. May God continue to watch over all of us.

Parish Photo Album

Let's write a new chapter in our website's online photo gallery called Parish Art Collection 2020. In honor of May and Mother's Day, please draw, paint, sculpt, garden, or write poetry of the Blessed Virgin Mary and title it, "Our Mother." Feel free to use classic Catholic art to inspire your own inner-artist. All ages are expected to contribute! Take a picture of it and email it to cahill@blessedsacramentsp.org.

We will add it to our online parish photo album. You keep the art or give it as a gift to a special mother in your life.



FAITH FORMATION



e-Faith Formation

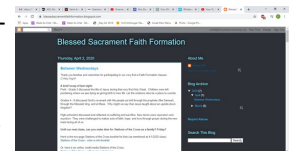
Congratulations students and families on completing a school year with both in-person and online classes. Thank you to all for your flexibility and resilience. We are Blessed Sacrament!

New! Parent Connect

Families, how are you doing? One parent shares, "Despite the circumstances, I think in many ways the slowing down of life in general has been good for us as a family. We have a sense of routine which is good. We have always done Friday Family Night that gives us something to look forward to!" Another parent shares, "We are *missing out* on a lot this year, but we are just so grateful to have our health and glad to have something to celebrate, even if it's at home." Many parents share the struggles of managing stress, work, home school, and family time.

Now is a great time to unify in prayer and purpose. Join us for **Parent Connect**, an online discussion with fellow adults in your church community. Be affirmed in your mission as a family of faith and take away practical ideas to support you on your mission. Mark your calendar:

Wednesday May 13, 8:00 pm. To register email Connie at cahill@blessedsacramentsp.org.



Ups and downs? Absolutely. You are not alone! Is this a time of conversion? You bet. Parents, like the early apostles in the book of Acts, we are on a mission. We don't want to go *back to normal*. Let us go *back to better*.

How to stay connected during our stay at home

. Visit the parish website regularly as new content is added each week, including daily worship.

. Subscribe to our blog at:

BlessedSacramentFaithFormation.blogspot.com

. Contact Connie with any comments:

cahill@blessedsacramentsp.org

. Your voice is important in all our ministries!

Happy Mother's Day!



Appreciate Mom and plant a Mary Garden! Celebrate Our Mother Mary as the "Mystical Rose." Honor her queenship with marigolds. Did you know Impatiens are called "Our Lady's Earrings" because of their curving stems? Be sure to send us a picture of your Mary Garden! (see blue box to the left). Thank you again for supporting our youth programs with your Gerten's orders.