

Blessed Trinity Catholic Church

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Fourth Sunday of Lent ~ March 21 & 22, 2020

Parish Mission Statement

*We, the members of Blessed Trinity Parish,
share a common bond of love given to us through the Mystery of the Blessed Trinity.*

As the loving Father does, we welcome and support everyone who enters our faith community.

*As His Son exemplifies, we humbly strive to be a learning, giving, caring, and teaching parish
eager to serve, evangelize, and give generously of ourselves to others.*

*As the Holy Spirit inspires and leads us, we are a faithful, prayer family
that worships God through the many gifts and ministries with which the Lord has blessed us.*



This Week in Our Parish

Sunday, March 22

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Monday, March 23

Memorial of St. Turibius of Mogrovejo

Wednesday, March 25

Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord

Sunday, March 29

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Scripture Readings for March 28 & 29, 2020

Ezekiel 37:12-14

Romans 8:8-11

John 11:1-45

Stay Connected at Blessed Trinity



A great way to hear about parish event cancellations is by using **MyParish App** and allowing for notifications. This app also offers other features such as: Mass times, daily prayer, the Rosary, links to the diocese and the universal Church and much more. There is even a link for children featuring "Brother Francis" animated videos.

Take a moment to download **MyParish App** and stay connected with Blessed Trinity. It is available for both Android and Apple products.

General Information

- ◆ If you would like to celebrate the **Sacrament of Reconciliation**, please call the parish office for more information.
- ◆ If you would like to have your **child baptized**, call the parish office for information. Baptisms are celebrated regularly, except during Lent.
- ◆ Adults who are interested in learning more about the **Catholic faith** are invited to call the parish office for more information.
- ◆ Are you planning a **wedding**? Please call the parish office before setting a wedding date.
- ◆ Would you or someone you know wish to celebrate the **Anointing of the Sick**? Please call the parish office to request an individual anointing.
- ◆ Please remember that when **entering a hospital**, you should register as a member of Blessed Trinity Parish. When **confined at home**, please contact our parish office.
- ◆ **New parishioners** are always welcome at Blessed Trinity. If you wish to join our community, please contact the parish office for an appointment to register.
- ◆ Text and pictures for the weekly **bulletin** are due by 12:00 noon on Mondays; please email to: lsnyder@blessedtrinityfrankenmuth.org.

Love is the Touch

(Lori True)

*Love is the touch of intangible joy;
Love is the force that no fear can destroy;
Love is the goodness we gladly applaud:
God is where love is, for love is of God.*

*Love is the lilt in a lingering voice;
Love is the hope that can make us rejoice;
Love is the cure for the frightened and flawed:
God is where love is, for love is of God.*

*Love is the light in the tunnel of pain:
Love is the will to be whole once again:
Love is the trust of a friend on the road:
God is where love is, for love is of God.*

Pastoral Team

Pastor ~ Rev. Patrick Jankowiak

Pastoral Associate ~ Karen Smith

Coordinator of Faith Formation ~ Pam Daily

Director of Youth Ministry ~ Kathy Cramer

Director of Music ~ Alissa Hetzner

Music Assistant ~ Steve Holovach

Parish Secretary ~ Lori Snyder

Bookkeeper ~ Carol Maurer

Director of Maintenance ~ Fred Fitch

Maintenance Assistant ~ Phil Schmelzer

~ Commissioned Lay Ministers ~

Mike Snyder, Veronica Horn, Ginny Little,
Joe Ricard, Pam Daily, and Jackie Gere



DIOCESE OF SAGINAW

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

March 16, 2020

Dear Brother Priests, Deacons, Pastoral Administrators, Religious, and Faithful:

Each day we hear new reports about the coronavirus and its impact in our communities. These are extraordinary times for all of us. It is important to remain in prayer with one another and in union with Jesus at the cross. From the cross flows the grace, faith, hope, and love necessary to help us during this time.

What I write to you today is difficult news to bear. But in a greater abundance of caution and from what I have heard from health professionals, I believe it is in the best interest given these extraordinary times. Therefore, beginning March 17 through Sunday April 5, I am temporarily suspending all public Masses throughout the Diocese of Saginaw.

I am asking that, through April 5th, all communal penance services, public Stations of the Cross, any unnecessary parish gatherings and meetings be cancelled. Individual celebration of the Sacrament of Penance and Anointing of the Sick may be celebrated.

Funerals are permitted. However, the restrictions on numbers of those attending must be adhered to. If this is not possible, families may consider postponing the funeral or memorial Mass to a later date. A decision regarding the Sacrament of Confirmation will be made in the future, depending upon the situation of this crisis.

The holiest week for Catholics begins on Palm Sunday, April 5. In the coming days, I will provide further direction for liturgical celebrations during Holy Week and beyond, plans that are compatible with whatever the current situation is at that time. Further details regarding livestream and televised daily celebration of Mass will soon be made available.

In the midst of this crisis, it is important for parish communities to look for ways to practice the spiritual and corporal works of mercy, for example: making telephone calls to shut-ins offering consolation or bringing groceries to the homebound.

I ask that together we all intensify our prayer during this current situation. With the suspension of public Masses, it is an important and opportune time for the family to come together in prayer and reflection. The Diocese will provide resources to assist you in the coming days.

With assurances of my prayers for all of you, may you experience

Peace and joy in Christ,

Most Rev. Robert D. Gruss
Bishop of Saginaw

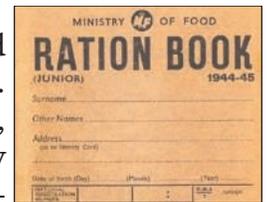
Notes from our Pastor

Masses Are Cancelled: It's not just our Diocese. All across the country, churches are going dark as both civil and religious authorities enact extraordinary measures to stop the spread of the coronavirus. We don't know if this period of cancelled Masses will have to be lengthened or not. So much depends on what happens in the next few weeks.



Funeral Masses, however, are not cancelled. If Blessed Trinity has a funeral, certain procedures still must be followed. For example, the Governor has imposed a limit on the number of people at public gatherings, and Bishop Gruss is reminding parishes that those limits must be adhered to. Depending on the funeral, this might mean that all those *wanting* to attend would not be permitted to attend. Second, those present for a funeral would have to leave a space next to them on both sides, and not sit right next to each other. Finally, during this time of extraordinary measures, we are unfortunately unable to provide funeral luncheons.

We've Done This Before: Other generations, that is. During World War 2, Americans changed the way they lived, traveled, ate, and purchased. Every family was issued a series of ration books for things like sugar, meat, butter, milk, coffee, etc. Once a person's ration stamps were used up, they couldn't buy more of that type of food for that month. Other items, like gasoline, were rationed only to those who could justify a need. And Americans turned backyards and empty lots into vegetable gardens to grow their own food. Over 20 million of these "victory gardens" were planted, with neighbors working together.



And you know what? People didn't mind. They knew that they were doing their part for the war effort. Well, our country is at war, and this time the enemy is a highly-contagious virus. This disease does not discriminate between Republican, Independent, or Democrat. It will not differentiate between Catholic and Protestant. We all need to work together, change our routines, and do whatever it takes, for as long as it takes, to defeat this virus.

God and Suffering: We have to be very careful about what we say about God while we are combating this outbreak. Our Catholic faith teaches us that God does not punish his people by inflicting suffering upon them. The life, death, and rising of Christ *changes* the way that God relates to us. And yet, there always seem to be people who spew filthy, wicked words about religion and suffering.

One televangelist has said that Italian churches removing holy water from their fonts is proof that the Catholic faith is a fraud, because if the water were truly holy there shouldn't be anything to fear from it. Another televangelist said that only people with "fake faith" wash their hands. In early March a radio-minister said the virus was God's punishment against gay people. The Catholic Church naturally finds comments like these reprehensible. God is not out to get us. God weeps *with* us, and suffers *with* us, and works *with* us to triumph over suffering of any kind.

~ Fr. Patrick ~

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(above) Mustard seeds have sprouted and are growing in the classroom wing.

(below) Grade 5 students visited the Saginaw Rescue Mission on March 11.



Parish Cemetery Clean-up

Please remove Christmas wreaths, grave blankets, and other decorative items from the parish cemetery by March 31. Cemetery clean-up will then take place and any items left will be discarded by maintenance staff. Thank you.

Faith Formation News

We will not gather for Faith Formation classes while school is out, but catechists have been sending me their lesson plans so that children can work from home. We are hopeful that we will be able to resume classes after Easter, and so it will be important for kids to keep up. I'll send lesson plans via email by grade. I'm so thankful that we have e-books this year! I never dreamed that we would be using them for a purpose such as this.

Parents, you'll need to get out the small white card we sent home with access information to the Christ Our Life program at www.loyolapress.com. Each student has his or her own unique username and password to sign in to the student book. That information is located on one side of the card. On the other side is information about how to access family activities including *Stump the Shepherd*, which the kids enjoy playing. If you cannot find the sign-on information, please let me know; I can text it to you.

I'll also email Lent/Easter word searches and other activities that will help to keep kids busy while they're home.

There is a Sunday Mass Prep Program for children available through *Holy Heroes*. The program includes a coloring page, a video, and other fun activities. Here is the link: <https://www.holyheroes.com/MassPrep-s/57.htm>

Catechist Sandi Doherty offers another suggestion. Residents of nursing homes are not able to receive visitors at this time, and they may be lonely and depressed. Children can make homemade cards for these folks. We have been talking with children about bringing joy to others, especially during Lent, and this is one way we can bring a little joy. You can drop off your cards at the nursing home of your choice, or put them in our "After Hours Drop Box" and we will deliver them for you.

I will miss seeing all the children, parents, and catechists at Faith Formation! Let's remember each other in prayer.

Pam Daily ~ Coordinator of Faith Formation
pdaily@blessedtrinityfrankenmuth.org



Sponsor Sanctuary Lamp

Parishioners are invited to make an offering for the candles used in the sanctuary lamp (the lamp that burns 24/7 before the tabernacle) which reminds us of the presence of the Risen Lord in the Blessed Sacrament that is reserved in the tabernacle. The light comes from a large candle placed in a red glass container and burns for seven days. The candle is replaced on Friday or Saturday each week throughout the year. If you are interested in making an offering of \$50.00 for these candles in honor or in memory of a family member, friend, neighbor, etc., please call the parish office to find out which weeks are available.

Be kind. Be kind. Be kind. Be kind. Be kind.

Youth Ministry News

What a difference a few days make....

The picture posted at right shows a few grade 6 youth who still have their BT school prayer tags on their back packs. I'm glad they do and hope all our youth still have them attached.

Please hold in prayer the most vulnerable in our community. Do what you can for neighbors in need. We can get through this TOGETHER!

During this "off time," our grade 6 youth can continue at home with what we were discussing. The Old Testament has been our focus this semester and our conversation was about God's Chosen People as they entered the promise land. The youth can open the bible to the Old Testament and continue the discussion with you!

We also were discussing our Lenten journey and what we need to 'Fast On' and 'Feast On.' If you need Lenten activities to do with your children just contact us at church!

Our gathering for grades 7-12 youth was set last Sunday until we received communication from Bishop Gruss to suspend all Youth Ministry events and Faith Formation gatherings while school was out. As much as I want us to gather, I also understand that we have a responsibility to flatten the curve. We want to get back to "normal" as soon as possible and if not gathering helps with that, then that's what we need to do.

Our March 22 theme was "Lean on Me." So, as we continue on our Lenten journeys, let's do just that. Let's lean on GOD and his teachings and continue praying and helping those in need!

I will be texting and posting on the BTC-FB page the opportunity to do part of the activity that was planned for March 15 - decorate your own rice bowl. I will let you know how to pick up the items to do this at home.

Youth can sign up to be part of a Youth Ministry Live Event beginning on March 22 from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. Many of our high school and college-age youth will recognize Kim Paul, who was emcee for NCYC 2017. Register at: <https://projectym.com/live/>

WE are Strongest Together... we are BT!

Kathy Cramer ~ Director of Youth Ministry
kramer@blessedtrinityfrankenmuth.org



Prayer for Trust Saint Francis de Sales

*Do not look forward to the changes and chances
of this life with fear.*

*Rather, look to them with full confidence that,
as they arise, God to whom you belong
will in His love enable you to profit by them.*

*He has guided you thus far in life.
Do you but hold fast to His dear hand,
and He will lead you safely through all trials.*

*Whenever you cannot stand,
He will carry you lovingly in his arms.*

*Do not look forward to what may happen tomorrow.
The same Eternal Father who takes care
of you today will take care of you tomorrow,
and every day of your life.*

*Either He will shield you from suffering
or He will give you unfailing strength to bear it.*

*Be at peace then,
and put aside all useless thoughts,
all vain dreads and all anxious imaginations.*

Amen.

Sponsor of the Week

Valley Allergy Clinic, P.C.

*Please patronize the sponsors on the back of this
bulletin and thank them for their kind generosity.*

We Are Stewards

On-line Giving (EFT) ~ March 8-14, 2020

Adult Contributions	\$1,312.00
Parish Development Fund	5.00
Weekend Total	\$1,317.00

Weekend ~ March 14 & 15, 2020

Parish Adult Contributions (72 envelopes)	\$3,976.00
Weekend Loose.....	241.00
Parish Development Fund (1 envelope).....	150.00
Weekend Total	\$4,367.00

faith

Electronic Tithing

Electronic giving to your parish helps establish your stewardship as a priority. Once you authorize the amount of your contribution, it is electronically transferred to the parish account on the dates you specify. For more info, call Parish Bookkeeper Carol Maurer at 652-3259.

Lord Jesus, You traveled through towns and villages curing every disease and illness among the people.
 At your command, the sick were made well.
 Come to our aid now in this health crisis so that we may know your healing love.
 Heal those who are sick: may they regain their health and strength.
 Heal us from our fear, which prevents us from helping one another.
 Heal us from our pride, which makes us certain of our health and life apart from you.
 Bless health care professionals with strength and compassion as they selflessly respond to our needs.
 We make this prayer in your holy name. Amen.