



*Founded 1866*

# SAINT ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH

700 W. Maple Street • Plattsburg, MO 64477  
816.539.2634 • [stannplattsburg@gmail.com](mailto:stannplattsburg@gmail.com)  
[www.StAnnPlattsburg.org](http://www.StAnnPlattsburg.org)

19 March 2020  
St. Joseph, Solemnity

Dear Friends in Christ,

By now, many of you have heard that because of the COVID-19 outbreak, our diocese has felt the need to take drastic measures to keep those who are vulnerable among us safe. For that reason, Bishop Johnston has issued several norms which include the following:  
No parish events may take place, i.e., Legion of Mary, Choir practice, youth groups, etc. All Public Masses including Sunday Masses are suspended. All public devotions such as Stations of the Cross are also suspended. This, unfortunately, means that I cannot celebrate Mass with the Faithful present. The only basic exception are funeral Masses which can only include the immediate family and the priest. Baptisms are also permitted with immediate family only. There are other norms as well which you can read on the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph website. As for now, these norms are in effect until **Friday, April 3, 2020** and will be revisited or extended as needed.

Should you need a priest for confession or you or one of your loved ones requires Anointing of the Sick, I ask you to call me at (816)-539 2634. I will be happy to respond. If you would like to simply talk, you are always welcome to call. As I am rather cut-off from normal communication through weekly Mass, please continue to alert me of pastoral situations that arise so that I can respond.

I would also like everyone to know that St. Ann church is unlocked for private prayer during normal hours of the day. I would encourage all of you to make visits to the Blessed Sacrament. The Living God resides here in the Tabernacle; He has not abandoned us and still invites us to spend time with Him. I also invite you to fervently pray with your families, especially for those affected by the virus, and that we are able to return to public worship soon. The daily recitation of the Rosary along with reading the daily readings for Mass are highly recommended.

As this is a trying time for all of us both physically and spiritually, I have included a prayer for spiritual communion in this communication. A spiritual communion takes the place of receiving

Holy Communion when we are unable. I pray that as you use this prayer, this will help you to keep the light of Faith burning within you to return joyful to the Eucharistic Lord.

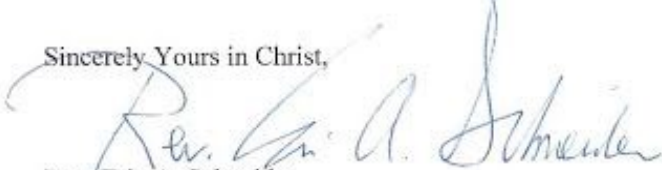
**As is needed, I will leave any necessary updates on the parish website: [stjosepheaston.org](http://stjosepheaston.org) regarding any changes to the current policy. I would like to remind you that I am with you in prayer and have continued to offer Mass privately with the intentions that were already in the schedule—you and you loved ones are remembered.**

As an important side note, St. Joseph exists solely upon the generosity of all of you. Without a steady weekly collection, it will be next to impossible to pay utilities, salaries, and the monthly diocesan bill. I would like to stress again that we do not receive financial help from outside sources, but we, as parishioners, are fully responsible for maintaining the parish. As we all rely on the generosity of you to keep moving forward in our century-and-a-half mission, **I urge you to send in your donations by mail.** It is in this way, that when we resume our regular spiritual life together once again, we will emerge prepared to carry on our mission. The donations will be deposited weekly.

As I write to you on St. Joseph Day, we are reminded that much of his life is hidden from our eyes. He was entrusted with a particular mission to care for the Blessed Virgin and the Christ Child. When times were difficult, Sacred Scripture tells us that the Holy Family traveled for hundreds of miles into the land of slavery, Egypt, to be safe from the murderous King Herod. We, too, must make this painful journey into Egypt this Lent. We have not chosen it, but it has chosen us. We know that Egypt has an end and that the Holy Family is able return to Nazareth unharmed. Let us pray for that day when you and I can return unharmed to Our Nazareth—our daily life, and sacramental worship of God.

When we are sometimes deprived of the things, people or places we love, we can come back to them with an even greater devotion. It is my hope that when we see each other again, we will return with greater fervor, ready to meet the Lord joyfully and with great thanksgiving and even more ardent faith. May St. Joseph, Foster Father of Christ, accompany us in our trials and protect us with his fatherly love. With the assurance of my prayers, I am,

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

  
Rev. Eric A. Schneider

## Act of Spiritual Communion

---

My Jesus,  
I believe that You  
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.  
I love You above all things,  
and I desire to receive You into my soul.  
Since I cannot at this moment  
receive You sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite  
myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.  
Amen.

