

Monday, April 6, 2020

Dear Sacred Heart parishioners:

“For even if I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing as I observe your good order and firmness of your faith in Christ” (Col. 2:5).

Am I feeling what St. Paul was feeling? Yes, I am. Are you? I think we all are: absent from one another but united in spirit. Remember, another term for the Church is the Mystical Body of Christ. That means wherever we are, we are parts of a body – with Jesus Christ as the head.

But it’s still hard to be apart from one another during these trying times. Worst of all is the closed church. We can echo the prayer of the prophet Daniel in the fiery furnace, during a 6th century B.C. persecution, when Jewish public worship was forbidden. Daniel laments to God: “We have in our day no prince, prophet or leader, no holocaust, sacrifice, oblation or incense ... but with contrite heart and humble spirit let us be received” (Daniel 3:38). With “contrite heart and humble spirit” you can still be received, by fervent private prayer and Bible reading at home, both individual and with the family together.

The really great news is that now you can go to the **Sacred Heart of Jesus Lewistown** Facebook page Easter Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m. and every day of Holy Week for a live streaming of all services. The Holy Week schedule is as follows:

- Monday, April 6, 7:00AM Daily Mass with Fr. Jay
- Tuesday, April 7, 7:00AM Daily Mass with Fr. Jay
- Wednesday, April 8, 7:00PM Daily Mass with Fr. Jay
- Holy Thursday, April 9, 8:00AM Office of Readings & Morning Prayer with Fr. Jay
- Holy Thursday, April 9, 7:00PM The Lord’s Supper with Fr. Bill
- Good Friday, April 10, 8:00AM Office of Readings & Morning Prayer with Fr. Jay
- Good Friday, April 10, 3:00PM Stations of the Cross with Fr. Jay
- Saturday, April 11, 8:00AM Office of Readings & Morning Prayer with Fr. Jay
- Sunday, April 12, 11:00AM Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord Mass with Fr. Bill

If you don’t have Facebook, go to Sacred Heart’s webpage at www.sacredheartlewestown.com for viewing anytime by clicking on the Facebook icon on the upper left of the screen or the link to the live streaming Mass on the right to watch the video. When you click on either of these links, a pop up will appear asking to; 1) Log into your Facebook page, 2) Create a new Facebook account, or 3) Click Not Now, which will allow you to view the video on the website without

creating a Facebook account. Once Mass is over, the video will be available to view anytime in the same way. Because Facebook live is free, we are not in need of donations to cover the cost of this streaming service at this time. Thank you to those of you who expressed an interest in supporting this endeavor financially. Please visit the webpage frequently for any updated information and to read the weekly bulletin. Also, you can go to **St. Jude Thaddeus Catholic Church** Facebook page any Saturday evening at 5:30 p.m. for a live streaming of their Mass. In addition, you may go to the EWTN site at www.ewtn.com for Mass as well.

Fr. Jay and I miss you all very much. We love you and pray for you. We are celebrating private Mass each day and fulfilling all of your Mass intentions. We are doing fine; thanks be to God.

Financially, these are difficult times, for both households and churches, but God will take care of us in the long run. If you can, please continue your contributions to your parish church, because we are seriously compromised as well. We have parish staff and school faculty whose paychecks now are seriously in jeopardy, so please help us. Almost all are still working since churches are deemed by the state an essential service.

You may pay your tithe through online giving – click on the Online Giving icon on the top right of the Sacred Heart of Jesus homepage on our website, or you may mail your collection envelope to the parish office or put your envelope in the new secure drop box, bolted to the rectory wall by the garage. If you can increase your gift, God bless you. And consider donations to our St. Vincent de Paul Society, the church's charitable arm.

To whatever extent you are able, please be generous to the parish school's Annual Fund (general school income), the Angel Fund (family tuition assistance), and your purchase and/or sale of Benefit Auction raffle tickets, especially since the big Benefit Auction, our huge annual school fundraiser, might not be held this year. By all means, we wish to keep the school going. Teachers have been valiantly teaching online from home, since the school closure.

Thanks for your prayers and support. Hang in there. "And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were called in one body. And be thankful" (Col. 3:15).

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William M. Weary". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Rev. William M. Weary