

May 6, 2020



# St. Walter Parish Newsletter

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Issue 6, Vol. 1

## MAY: MARY'S MONTH

Dear Parishioners of St. Walter-

We move not just into another week, but another month. And it is another month we need to stay at home. This can be a very difficult time for all of us. May brings warmer weather that begs us to get out of our home and enjoy the outdoors whether it's gardening or sports. The family gathering such as graduations, First Holy Communions, and other events we look forward to have been postponed indefinitely. How do we adjust and respond to this?

I think Mary offers some direction. Since May is her month, her example of contemplation and reflection might help us see things in a very different perspective. Yes, May is going to be different. But is still Mary's month and her excellent example of a contemplative saint can help us to enjoy this drastic shift in our lives. We may, for example, want to reflect on what has taken place in our lives since this pandemic began. We can ask ourselves what are our days like now? What are the challenges we face with our families, our work and our faith? What are we most grateful for and what do we miss the most? This May, with Mary's help, we move from a month that has been a very busy one, to one that is more reflective and prayerful. With Mary's help we hopefully can put things into perspective so we move forward with hope. In so many ways, this has been Mary's way of life with Jesus and Joseph. May it be ours this month and in the months ahead.

Thank you again for all of your phone calls, emails and cards. I am so appreciative of your concerns and questions. The two most common questions are: when will we be able to celebrate the Eucharist together again? And where is the parish financially? First: The Archdiocese is evaluating how best to accommodate the evolving guidelines from Governor Pritzker and there is still no definite date for re-opening. Second: we are including a parish report on our finances. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Besides praying the Rosary this month, a prayer to "Mary, Health of the Sick" is included in today's Prayer Helps.

Missing all of you, and awaiting the day when we can gather together again in church,

Peace in the Risen Christ,  
Fr. Jim



## Prayer Helps

- Sunday Mass at 9:30am on channel 7 and 9 and at 8:00am and 11:00am (repeat) on EWTN
- The Prayer, "Mary, Health of the Sick"

O Mary,  
You always shine on our path  
As a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you,  
Health of the Sick,  
who at the Cross took part  
in Jesus' pain,  
keeping your faith firm.

You, Salvation of the people,  
Know what we need,  
And we are sure you will provide  
so that, as in Cana of Galilee,  
we may return to joy and to feasting  
after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love,  
To conform to the will of the Father  
And to do as we are told by Jesus,  
who has taken upon himself our  
sufferings and carried our sorrows  
to lead us, through the cross,  
to the joy of Resurrection.

Under your protection,  
We seek refuge,  
Holy Mother of God,  
Do not disdain the entreaties  
Of we who are in trial,  
But deliver us from every danger,  
O glorious and blessed virgin.  
AMEN.

- The Prayer Receiving Christ Spiritually (see below)

Since all of us are unable to receive holy communion and desire it so much, one of the great saints of the church, St. Alphonsus Liguori, offers this prayer of spiritual communion:

**My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most blessed sacrament.  
I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul.  
Since I cannot receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you are already there, and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you.  
Amen.**

- The Prayer During an Epidemic (click link on home page)
- One of our parishioners, Milton Wright, modified and shared this prayer with us. We thought it would be good to share it with you as well. (see below)

God of all mercies, grant:  
To the St. Walters family, safety and good health;  
To those afflicted with COVID-19, swift healing;  
To the frightened, courage;  
To the dying, comfort;  
To the dead, eternal life;  
To health-care providers, strength and stamina;  
To our leaders, wisdom and compassion;  
To our nation, unity of purpose;  
To the Church, the grace to serve the suffering selflessly;  
To all believers, strong faith in Your presence;  
To the whole human family, unity of heart; and  
To us, your servants, the reward of knowing that we are doing Your will  
when we spend ourselves in loving service of others.

- A reminder about Cardinal Cupich's call to common prayer and the ringing of church bells five times a day.

**The prayers and intentions for each hour of prayer are below:**

**9:00 a.m. - Prayer for those infected with the virus and all who are ill**

Lord, place your healing hand on those who suffer illness. Bring them to full health and ease their anxious hearts. May our prayer and the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary encourage them that they are not alone. We ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN

**12:00 p.m. - Prayer for health care workers and those attending to the sick**

Lord, we are ennobled by those who put their lives at risk in caring for the sick. Keep them safe and embolden them when they are weary. We ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN

**3:00 p.m. - Prayer for first responders and essential workers**

Lord, we pray for those who run to danger to keep us safe and those who serve the common good. Embrace them with your mantle of protection and comfort the fears of their families. We ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN

**6:00 p.m. - Prayer for people of every nation and their leaders**

Lord, the pandemic opens our eyes to see each other as brothers and sisters in one human family. We pray for people of every nation and their leaders, asking that they be inspired to seek the good of all and quell the voices of division. We ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN

**9:00 p.m. - Prayer for those who have died today**

Lord, we grieve the passing of our sisters and brothers who have died this day. We commend them to your tender mercy, confident that nothing, not even death, will separate us from your love. We ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN

**(Excerpt from announcement from Cardinal Cupich on March 20, 2020)**

- The booklet, "The Word Among Us." The May edition of the booklet for those who wish to continue their daily reflections. Please call the rectory at (773) 779-1515 to make arrangements for pick up.

## Parish Report: Financial Corner

The goal of this report is to provide a more comprehensive picture of our parish's operating income and expenses and how this has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. We project there will be a significant shortfall in this year's budget due in large part to decreased weekly offertory. Because our parish already operates on thin margins, any reduction in offertory is significant and impacts our ability to cover our expenses. Additionally, our parish has experienced financial losses from the absence of an Easter collection. Though our parishioners have been very generous, our Easter collection is down 40% compared to last year.

While we have been able to lower some expenses, the wages and benefits of our employees continue to represent the largest share of our operating costs. Our parish and school staff are working hard to maintain the life of the parish and school during this difficult time. Our school continues to provide education through remote learning, both electronically and in paper form. Additional expenses are the ones we all face daily – our utilities, including electricity, heating, phones and such. Reductions have been implemented but the expense is still ongoing.

### Financial Corner for January

Budgeted for January, 2020	\$ 12,156.00
Collected for January, 2020	\$ 13,405.18
Year to date budgeted	\$ 94,209.00
Year to date collection	\$ 96,310.53
Year to date surplus/deficit	\$ (2,101.53)

### Financial Corner for February

Budgeted for February 2020	\$ 12,156.00
Collected for February 2020	\$ 10,507.73
Year to date budgeted	\$ 106,365.00
Year to date collection	\$ 106,818.26
Year to date surplus/deficit	\$ (453.00)

### Financial Corner for March

Budgeted for March 2020	\$ 15,195.00
Collected for March 2020	\$ 8,827.83
Year to date budgeted	\$ 121,560.00
Year to date collection	\$ 115,646.09
Year to date surplus/deficit	\$ (5,913.91)

### Financial Corner for April

Budgeted for April 2020	\$ 12,156.00
Collected for April 2020	\$ 9,007.00
Year to date budgeted	\$ 133,716.00
Year to date collection	\$ 124,653.09
Year to date surplus/deficit	\$ (9,062.91)

The comparison that speaks to me the most is the parish's deficit at the end of February (\$453.00) versus at the end of April (\$9,062.91). Also, please bear in mind that the fiscal year of the Archdiocese is from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020.

Thank you to those who have continued to support our St. Walter parish family. We are grateful to be remembered during this unusual time of worldwide crisis. You may continue to make an offertory donation through cash or check by mail or by dropping it off at our Rectory, 11722 S. Oakley, Chicago, IL 60643.

If online giving is more convenient, there are two options here at St. Walter. There have been donations through both options so please do whichever works best for you.

1. Using Our Sunday Visitor which can be accessed through our parish website or directly at [www.osvonlinegiving.com/4913](http://www.osvonlinegiving.com/4913)
2. Through the Archdiocese's website [www.archchicago.org/home](http://www.archchicago.org/home) and click on the red DONATE button at the top of the home page. Once you reach the Giving section of their website, "Universal Offertory Program" is the first choice

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me at (773) 779-1515.

Fr. Jim Mezydlo  
May 6, 2020