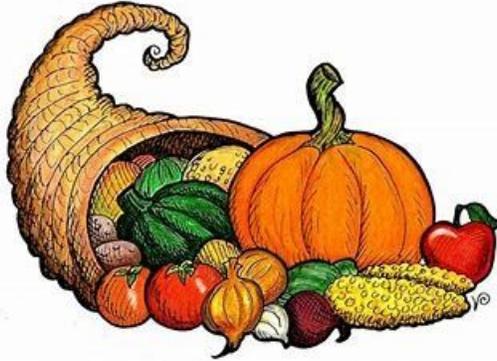


**St. Joseph Catholic Church
Milton, La. 70508**



Dear St. Joseph Parishioners,

Happy Thanksgiving! I hope that you and your family are able to enjoy this special time. Fr. Stan Jawa will be offering this year's simple Thanksgiving Day Mass at St. Joseph on Thanksgiving Day at 8:30 AM. I won't be able to make it this year as I continue to recover from COVID-19.

So many of you have made great strides to make this a better year for you and your families. Most of all by remaining steady in your faith. Stopping to thank God, not just on that special Thursday ahead but giving God his thanksgiving every Sunday! Speaking of Sunday, this Sunday begins the First Sunday of Advent. Come Jesus come! Let us ready ourselves for Christmas in the best spiritual way possible. My suggestion, let's read along those with our ancient scripture passages as we prepare the way of Jesus into our heart. Let's read your bible this advent. Bring it with you to daily mass and adoration. Make a short visit to the tabernacle after Mass with your family. Pray a little prayer near the advent wreath -- do not be afraid to ask God for hope. A lot of us need it. I need some of your home too as I continue to grieve for my sweet brother Bryan.

By the way, I would like to give you all an update on my health as a result of my COVID-19 diagnosis and to thank my brother priests, Deacon Keith Duhon, Linda D, and our sacristans for keeping Mass and the Church operating.

I did have a little setback over the course of my diagnosis of the corona virus that resulted in pneumonia in both of my lungs. By the grace of your prayers to our Blessed Mother, my blood work showed fair results so I was able to be treated by my primary care doctor and area nurses from the rectory. They checked in with me at several points each day as I kept still. Several of those nights with fever were scary but the dawn always brought good news. My blood oxygen saturation remained high enough to keep me out of the hospital. This is a special grace that I am grateful for. The plan of care was to be medicated and monitored in the parish. St. Joseph took care of me.

Now as I am more stable, I have been weakened tremendously. I am breathing fine but limited to little car trips around the block for sunlight/fresh air and eating a very limited low sodium diet. I will be taking smaller steps for some weeks longer and I simply ask for your patience and continued prayer - especially for others who are suffering more than me. Please, I'll have to take a two month long rain check on special food treats and dinner invites - even with all that good food around us. I will have to follow a strict diet to get me back to full strength. Your prayers and love is sufficient for me!

Hope to see you all again soon!

Fr. William Schambough