

Good morning, St Richard parish family!

I hope that this email finds you well. Please know that you all, and your intentions, have been in my daily prayers during Mass. I know that I'm a bit behind the curve, but please forgive me, God did not bless me with technical abilities haha! I have created a YouTube channel for our parish ("St Richard Catholic Church - STL), where I will be posting Mass daily at 11am, beginning Thursday March 26th until we can return to the church. I know that there are many other awesome choices out there, but I wanted to provide something familiar for those who would like to tune in! You can find our YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkGpdzdCM17rVqTByV_-Dqg?view_as=subscriber

St Richard Catholic Church - STL - YouTube

Welcome to the St Richard Catholic Church YouTube channel! In the midst of the COVID-19 situation, I will be uploading videos of my Masses here at the parish...
www.youtube.com

So how has your time been going this past week? I encourage you to continue to carve out some time each day to grow deeper in your faith, and in your relationship with Christ. I know the weather has been a real bummer lately, but luckily the forecast for today and tomorrow at least looks more promising! I encourage you take a few moments to go out into your backyard or close to you residence and spend some time in prayer. I know it can be very overwhelming watching all of the negative news about what is going on in the world around us, but we also want to be sure to take notice of the many blessings that God has given us in our lives as well. There are so many people that we can lift up in our prayers, especially all of those affected by the virus, and for those courageous men and women who are assisting on the front lines; please don't forget them!

I know last weekend was pretty odd since our weekly routine of going to Mass was thrown out of whack, and it looks like we're in for some more weeks of the same. Archbishop Carlson broke the tough news earlier this week that public Masses throughout Holy Week and Easter Sunday have been suspended. This will be a Lent and Easter that we will remember for the rest of our lifetimes. I look forward to the day when we can all be together again in our church here at St Richard, giving praise to our God and receiving the sacraments.

Pope Francis is encouraging all of us to pray the "Our Father" tomorrow at Noon, so please join in with others around the world who are praying. Noon in Rome is 6am our time, but we can still join together at Noon in our own time zone. Also, this Friday Pope Francis will spend some time in prayer at St. Peter's, starting at 6 pm (that's Rome time, Noon here). He has invited the faithful to tune-in to the ceremony, which will include the Liturgy of the Word, and benediction with the Blessed Sacrament. He said he will give an "urbi et orbi" apostolic blessing — "to the

City of Rome and the world” — that day as well. This blessing is usually reserved for Easter and Christmas, but these are unprecedented times. The blessing should be available online afterward on Friday, and maybe even live during it at www.vatican.va, but we will be sure to include a link in a future email update.

Although we aren't able to meet together in church this weekend like usual, please know that we are still a family of faith. I am here for you all, and let us continue to keep one another in prayer. St Richard, pray for us!

Fr Kavanagh