

# *The Parishes of St. Mary & Corpus Christi*

March 22, 2020 Fourth Sunday of Lent

- Please read the letter from Archbishop Richard Smith addressed to the Catholic Faithful of the Archdiocese of Edmonton
- Fr. Christopher continues to offer mass privately so mass intentions may be requested.
- Fr. Christopher will be available for confessions. Please phone the parish office to make arrangements.
- The St. Mary's Church will be open from 9:00 – 12:00 noon Monday to Friday for any parishioners wishing to reflect and pray. Please remember to follow the safety precautions:
  - Practice good hand hygiene
  - Coughing & sneezing etiquette
  - Requisite social distancing
  - Avoid any physical contact
  - Do not linger and gather to socialize.
- Office hours may vary so please call first – 780-753-2151.

Prayer is how we actively practice believing, so simply, so confidently, that God has the whole world in his hands. It's where we "let petitions and praises shape our worries into prayers, letting God know our concerns" (Phil. 4:6–7). Prayer is never the last resort of God's people. It is our first point of action.

Let us pray:

For the vulnerable, sick, and infected: God, heal and help. Sustain bodies and spirits. Contain the spread of infection.

For the young and the strong: God, give them the necessary caution to keep them from unwittingly spreading this disease. Inspire them to help.

For our local, state, and federal governments: God, help our elected officials as they allocate the necessary resources for combatting this pandemic. Help them to provide more tests.

For our scientific community, leading the charge to understand the disease and communicate its gravity: God, give them knowledge, wisdom, and a persuasive voice.

For the media, committed to providing up-to-date information: God, help them to communicate with appropriate seriousness without causing panic.

For consumers of media, looking to be well-informed: God, help us find the most helpful local information to equip us to be good neighbors. Keep us from anxiety and panic, and enable us to implement the recommended strategies.

For families with young children at home for the foreseeable future: God, help mothers and fathers to partner together creatively for the care and flourishing of their children. For single mothers and fathers, grow their networks of support.

For pastors and church leaders faced with the challenges of social distancing: God, help them to be prayerful and supportive to their parishioners.

For frontline health care workers, we thank you for their vocational call to serve us.

For Christians in every neighborhood, community, and city: May the Holy Spirit inspire us to pray, to give, to love, to serve, and to proclaim the gospel, that the name of Jesus Christ might be glorified around the world.

For all those who have died, may God grant them eternal rest.