

St Raymond De Penafort

"Welcome. Love. Serve."

301 S. I-Oka Avenue
Mt. Prospect, IL 60056
(847) 253-8600
www.st-raymond.org

March 18, 2020

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of all compassion and God of all encouragement, who encourages us in our every affliction, so that we may be able to encourage those who are in any affliction with the encouragement which we ourselves are encouraged by God. -2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Dear St. Raymond Family,

My prayers continue to accompany our entire community as we adjust to the restrictions necessary to control COVID-19. I am grateful to our parish staff for their compassionate and creative response to the special needs that have resulted from this health crisis. We are in prayer in a special way for those who are sick, and who are especially vulnerable to this health threat.

St. Paul expresses his confidence that any affliction can be turned into an inspiration for mutual care and support. Let us continue to care for one another by checking in, especially with those who are isolated by health concerns, and by prayer for one another.

This is an update on St. Raymond Parish efforts to respond to the measures that we are being asked to adopt.

Campus Events, Classes, and Meetings

The entire St. Raymond campus is closed until further notice. ***All meetings, classes (including Religious Education), and events that were scheduled are officially canceled effective Friday, March 13, 2020. This extends to any St. Raymond parish off-site small group meetings.*** At this time we are postponing the Garage Sale until we have additional guidelines. These precautions are being enacted out of concern for the health and safety of our parishioners. At this time we are awaiting further direction from both the Governor of Illinois and Archdiocese of Chicago.

Parish Ministry Center (PMC) and Staff

Effective immediately, the PMC office will be closed to the public until further notice. A staff member will be available by phone (847-253-8600) daily from 8:30 a.m. – noon to help answer questions or concerns during these uncertain times.

Our staff is also accessible through individual email, phone, or website directory listing. We are available to help in any way that we can during this period, please continue to reach out as needed.

Bulletins and Books

Bulletins

We will continue to publish the bulletin weekly to keep our members connected. The bulletin is published on-line by Wednesday evening through our website

<http://www.st-raymond.org/welcome/bulletin/>. ***The parish bulletins will also be available outside the PMC entrance door and main Church entrance in a plastic bin.***

Book Bin

The parish staff has selected books from our Skach Library and placed them in a plastic bin to offer to you reading material. ***The Book Bin will be available daily from 8:30 a.m. – noon outside the PMC entrance door.*** The book bin will NOT be out during inclement weather or overnight. We kindly ask to take one book at a time and return it to the bin.

*Please note: The books are NOT cleaned daily and we do not know who will be accessing the bin on any given day.

Mass and Prayer Resources

Parish Masses

During this difficult time, we recognize it is particularly important that the faithful have access to the grace and comfort of Holy Mass. **St. Raymond will continue to offer a live stream (on-line) Mass 11:00 a.m. on Sundays. Please check our website www.st-raymond.org to access the live stream.**

In-person masses and regular weekly sacramental schedule are suspended effective immediately, including confession until further notice.

In addition to our on-line Sunday liturgy, we invite you to watch and participate in the celebration of Sunday, Saturday evening, and Daily Masses using the internet or television. **A Resource list can be found in the bulletin and on the website with both Mass information, as well as, family sites, podcasts, and other resources to explore.** We will continue to update and add to this list of resources in the upcoming weeks. If you have any questions please contact the PMC office at 847-253-8600.

Prayer Chapel

We are concerned for the safety and well-being of all parishioners. We do not feel that we are able to maintain the sanitizing of the prayer chapel in a consistently reliable way. ***Therefore, effective immediately, the prayer chapel will be closed to the public until further notice.***

Prayer is essential to finding peace and calm during this crisis. We encourage the use of the **outdoor O' Brien Gardens for prayer.** Additional benches have been added offer a peaceful area for prayer on our campus.

Sacraments

Please contact the PMC office at 847-253-8600 for further assistance and questions about baptisms, funerals, and weddings.

For questions regarding first communion and confirmation, please contact Cheryl Haluczak, Director of Formation for Children & Sacraments, at c.haluczak@st-raymond.org or 847-253-8600 ext. 151.

School

The decision to temporarily close our schools, **beginning Monday, March 16**, applied to all Catholic schools that are operated by the Archdiocese of Chicago and is in effect, currently, through Monday, March 30, 2020. At this time we are awaiting further direction from both the Governor of Illinois and Archdiocese of Chicago.

Counseling Services

Counseling Services are available for those experiencing the loss of a loved one, a relationship, job, and other challenging life situations. If you would like to talk with a counselor, please contact Sr. Valerie Kulbacki, Director of Care Ministries, at 847-253-8600 x 143 or Sr.Val@St-Raymond.org.

This health crisis will have severe consequences, not only for health, but also for the incomes and financial well-being of many families. This will be true for our parish family as well. We continue to be grateful for any expression of generosity to our parish during this crisis. We know that giving at this time is really a sacrificial act of faith. If you have questions about giving, please call the parish office.

May the peace of Christ guard all of our homes in the days and weeks to come.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Fr. Scott Hebden". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Fr. Scott Hebden, Pastor