

DURING THIS CRISIS PERIOD...

- ❖ In accordance with the latest directives from Archbishop Lepine, our church will be closed until further notice.
- ❖ The parish office is open Monday to Friday 8:30 am to 4:30, but the parish secretary will only be available Tuesday to Friday 8:30 am to 12 noon.
- ❖ Baptisms, Confirmations, and weddings are postponed until public-health concerns diminish. For funerals, please call the parish.
- ❖ Priests, permanent deacons, people of consecrated life and lay people who are 70 years of age and above must stay at home.
- ❖ Confessions and Anointing of the Sick are suspended until further notice, except in danger of death.

These are very difficult and insecure days for all, so if you or someone you know of is in any kind of need---emotional, spiritual, material, including Becket Pantry---please contact the parish office and one of our priests or someone else will do their best to respond to that need. We are here at your service. (514) 626-4111.

Fr. Peter Sabbath: psabbath@gmail.com.

Fr. Jaison Joseph: jaisattickal@gmail.com

SUNDAY MASS

Join us this **Sunday, March 29, at 11:00** for our first online Mass. We'll be doing the same for Holy Week although the schedule is not yet finalized. Just click the button on the parish website at www.becket.ca

Even though you are watching online, please be aware that it is the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, in which we are encouraged to actively participate by perhaps lighting a candle, by sitting, standing and kneeling when appropriate, by singing along with the hymns and speaking the responses out loud. Tell the kids that this is different than watching videos in their PJs with snacks and playing on the phone. Encourage them to be up and dressed and focused for Mass.

WORTHWHILE READING DURING THE CRISIS

- 1) *The Road of Hope: A Gospel from Prison*, by Ven. Cardinal Francis Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan
- 2) *The Practice of the Presence of God*, by Brother Lawrence
- 3) *Sign of Contradiction*, by St. John Paul II
- 4) *Abandonment to Divine Providence*, by Jean-Pierre De Caussade
- 5) *The Power of the Powerless: A Brother's Legacy of Love*, by Christopher De Vinck

ST. THOMAS À BECKET PARISH

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www.becket.ca

Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 29, 2020



MASS INTENTIONS: MARCH 28 TO APRIL 5

Saturday	Mar 28	
	Our Parishioners	
Sunday	Mar 29	Fifth Sunday of Lent
	Barbara Figura	E.K. McDonald
	Maria Ojeda	Joe & family
Monday	Mar 30	
	Anna Gallo	Anna Donald & Family
Tuesday	Mar 31	
	Terry Hayes	Claire & family
Wednesday	April 1	
	Antonio Rubino & the deceased members of the Rubino family	
Thursday	April 2	
	Albanese family	
Friday	April 3	
	Rosina Sainte-Marie	Becket Seniors
Saturday	April 4	
	Our Parishioners	
Sunday	April 5	Palm Sunday
	Italo Falcone	Adamo Sabrina & Daniele
	In thanksgiving from Leonora & Augustin Bascao	

SANCTUARY LAMP (Week)

March 29: Florence Reuben, requested by family.

April 5: Alf & Chris Kolodicki, requested by the family

MASS INTENTIONS: During the COVID-19 crisis, your Mass intentions will continue to be honoured by our priests.

THE THEOLOGY AND CHRIST-CONSOLATION OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION



The Church has weathered numerous storms throughout her history. Wars, plagues, famines, persecution—all of these are impressed upon the memory of Mother Church, forming her age-old wisdom and inspiring her pastoral concern. One of the ingenious

notions developed as a result of these trials is the practice of *spiritual communion*. The theology of spiritual communion gives us profound insight into the very nature of the Eucharist itself.

The Mass (*aka* the Eucharist) is the source and summit of the Church's life. ... Firstly and most essentially, the Mass is the activity of Jesus offering himself to the Father. In other words, the Eucharist is primarily a sacrifice. The word sacrifice comes from two Latin words: *sacra*, meaning "holy," and *facere*, "to make." The Mass, therefore, is Christ "making holy" his Mystical Body, the Church. It is Jesus, through the hands of his priests, reconciling the world with the Father. St. Paul says it beautifully: "For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in Christ, and through him to reconcile to himself all things" (Col. 1:20). This is why the high point of the Mass is not reception of Holy Communion, but rather the Doxology: "Through him and with him and in him, O God Almighty Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours forever and ever. Amen!" In these words, we hear the reason we celebrate Mass—namely, to witness and participate in the saving activity of Christ who binds us to the Father: "May they all be one Father, just as you are in me and I am in you" (John 17:21).

Here we see the primary purpose of spiritual communion: *to unite our hearts and souls with the sacrifice of Christ made by the priest in the Holy Mass*. Even though we may not be able to attend Mass physically because of extraordinary circumstances, our bishops and parish priests are still celebrating the Eucharist privately. Thus, we are called to unite our hearts with the heart of our shepherds who speak to God on our behalf and fulfill Christ's mandate to "do this in memory of me" (Luke 22:19). Wherever a priest faithfully celebrates Mass, there is the Church! The souls of those present and absent are integrated into a single symphony of love to the Father. Although today, we have to be separated for the sake of safety and protection, we can still be united to one another through prayer and contemplation.

The traditional practice of spiritual communion also teaches us that *desire* for Christ is a means of communing with Christ. The ancient Church recognized

this fact for Christians who were martyred or died before receiving Baptism. Although they did not physically receive Baptism, they were sanctified by a "baptism of *desire*." The first case of this was the good thief on the cross, whom Jesus welcomed into paradise despite the thief not having been baptized. ...

The same is true when it comes to the Holy Eucharist.

There have been a number of occasions in history when the Church has had to suspend the celebration of public liturgies. This decision is never taken lightly. As a result, the faithful are called to hone their desire for Christ in the Eucharist, trusting that God will commune with their souls. This is known as spiritual communion. St. Thomas Aquinas defines spiritual communion as "an ardent *desire* to receive Jesus in the Holy Sacrament and a loving embrace as though we had already received him." ...

There are many people who are troubled and disturbed by the necessity of suspending public liturgies due to COVID-19. This is understandable. But we cannot allow it to steal our peace and joy as God's children. Jesus knows your heart, your will, your desire. Allow that to be a prayer to him during this time of crisis so that these upcoming weeks may not be a cause of stress, but rather an opportunity for holiness.

~ Fr. Blake Britton, *Word on Fire Catholic Ministries*

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

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

